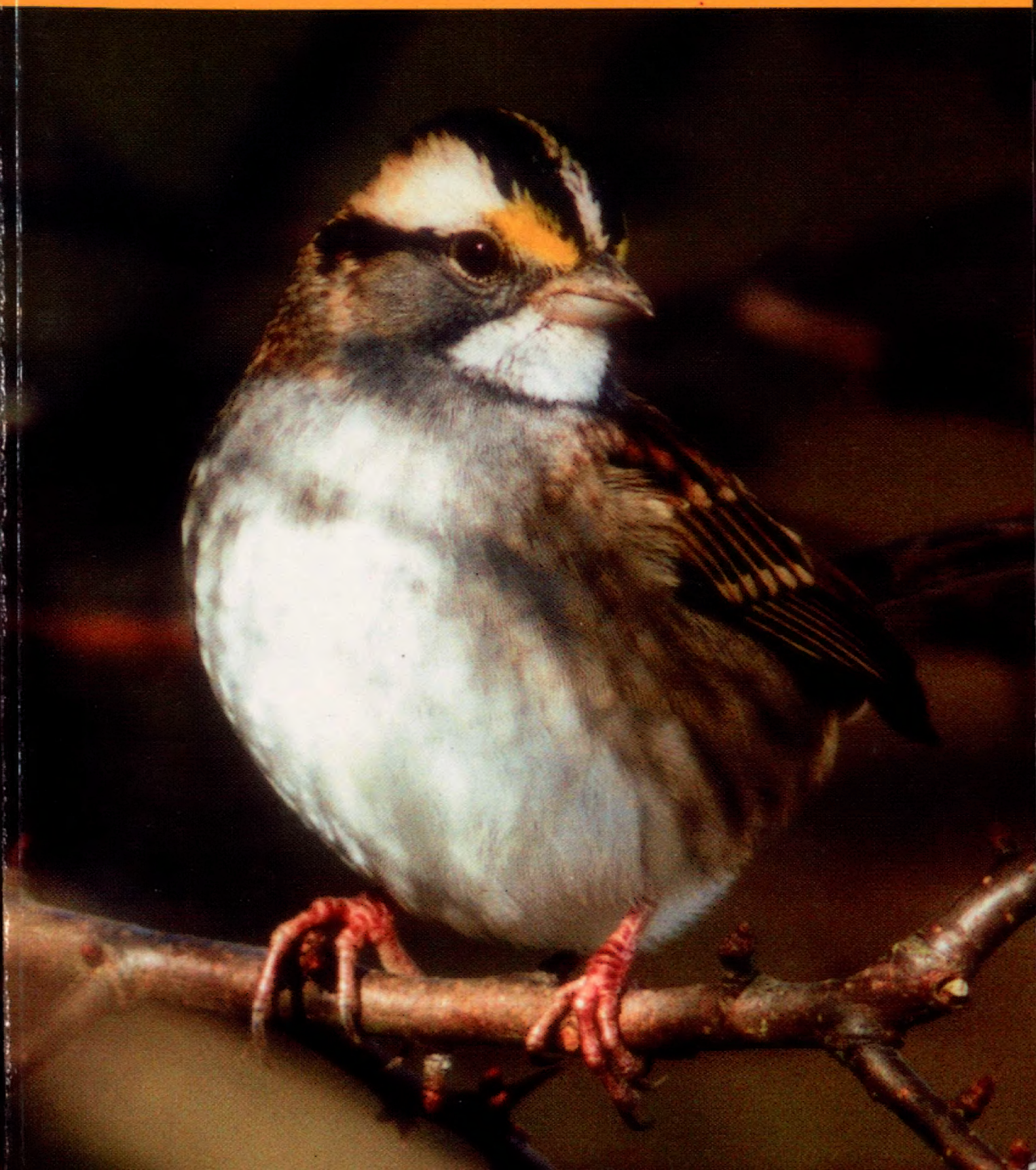
YORKSHIRE RARE AND SCARCE BIRDS REPORT 2002



YORKSHIRE NATURALISTS' UNION

YORKSHIRE RARE AND SCARCE BIRDS REPORT 2002

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CONTENTS

Reports Committee membership 4

Introduction 5

Calendar 7

Systematic List 20021 14

Categories B, D and E5 54

Additions and Corrections to previous Reports 59

List of Contributors 61

Local Reports received 63

Description Requirements 64

Rare Breeding Birds in Yorkshire 67

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* in the Lower Wharfe Valley in 2002 69

Front Cover Photograph: White-throated Sparrow, Flamborough, J. Harriman

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INTRODUCTION

Acknowledgements

Thanks are again due to the assistance of the editors of local bird reports in the county, and the Vice-County Recorders who collated and adjudicated on records. Particular thanks are due to the writers Dale Middleton (divers to Spoonbill), Jim Pewtress (geese to raptors), Mike Barnett (waders and gulls), Geoff Dobbs (terns to Hoopoe), Craig Thomas (Eurasian Wryneck to Cetti's Warbler) and Russell Slack (rest of the passerines). Thanks are also extended to Jim Pewtress for drawing the graphs and maps, to Paul Leonard for his artwork and to the photographers Mike Ashforth, John Harriman, Iain Leach, Roy Lyon, Dave Mansell, Mike Richardson and Garry Taylor.

Highlights

There were no new species for the county this year. The highlight of the year was probably a White-throated Sparrow that spent a week at Flamborough Head from 22nd October, the county's second record and first since 1983. Another popular county second was a Citrine Wagtail at Flamborough from 27th to 30th September, but the second ever Terek Sandpiper at Beacon Ponds NR on 1st June eluded most. A reasonably obliging Blyth's Reed Warbler at Filey from 12th to 16th October, the county's 6th, attracted the crowds. An elusive Two-barred Crossbill at Bole Edge Plantation near Sheffield was only the 4th in recent decades and only the second to be seen by more than a fortunate few. A singing male Subalpine Warbler at South Gare on 8th and 9th June was the first identified as the eastern form albistriata.

Of the rare breeding species, no reports of breeding Black-necked Grebes or calling Spotted Crakes were received from the Lower Derwent Valley, where water levels continue to fall as a result of changed management priorities. A pair of Corn Crakes almost certainly bred in the Yorkshire Dales NP, with a farmer seeing an adult and two young birds in a field where a bird had earlier been heard calling. Probably three pairs of European Honey Buzzards were present, but with no proof of successful breeding. It was an exceptional year for Common Cranes – not only was there an unusually good spring passage, but displaying birds summered in the county at two sites. A pair of Roseate Terns raised two young at Bran Sands on the south side of the Tees. Four European Bee-eaters summered in West Yorkshire and may have attempted to breed. Only five singing male Common Nightingales were noted at Thorne Moors.

The most notable omission this year was Black Guillemot with no confirmed records. There were no Radde's or Dusky Warblers in autumn.

Other highlights of the year included a Black-browed Albatross that flew north at Spurn that was the first since 1985 and a Black Stork that flew west over Anglers CP, the first since 1996. Three "Fea's" Petrels doubled the total of county records. Neither winter period produced any really harsh weather, and wintering numbers of Great Northern and Black-throated Divers, Long-tailed Ducks, Rough-legged Buzzards and Horned Larks were all low. It was a good year for Great Bitterns, with 29 records, and although the number of Little Egret reports stabilised, it was an exceptional year for Eurasian Spoonbill. The number of records of Egyptian Goose was the highest ever whilst Mandarin Duck has now firmly established itself on the Wharfe. Two sightings of Surf Scoter was also notable, as was the large passage of Velvet Scoters.

It was a good wader year, with two Stone Curlews, yet another Marsh Sandpiper again in West Yorkshire, single Broad-billed and White-rumped Sandpipers, a Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and the first Terek Sandpiper since 1989. There were also 20 Grey Phalarope records. A Ross's Gull is always a good bird, and a long-stayer attracted the crowds to Scarborough, but a second bird turned up at the same time at Blacktoft and later Brough. Another good inland record involved a Roseate Tern at Old Moor Wetlands on 21st May.

Three Alpine Swifts was above average, and a Red-rumped Swallow that spent a few weeks in East Park, Hull in April was a crowd-puller. There was a good autumn passage of the earlier drift migrants, with above average numbers of Eurasian Wrynecks, Icterine and Barred Warblers, Red-breasted Flycatchers and Red-backed Shrikes, together with four Greenish Warblers. Migration on the coast in October provided few highlights in the passerines, but there was an exceptional influx of 122 Firecrests in October, augmenting the good spring showing to produce 156 for the year. Another species which occurred in unusual numbers was the irruptive Rosy Starling, with 11 records, eight occurring in June.

CALENDAR 2002

January

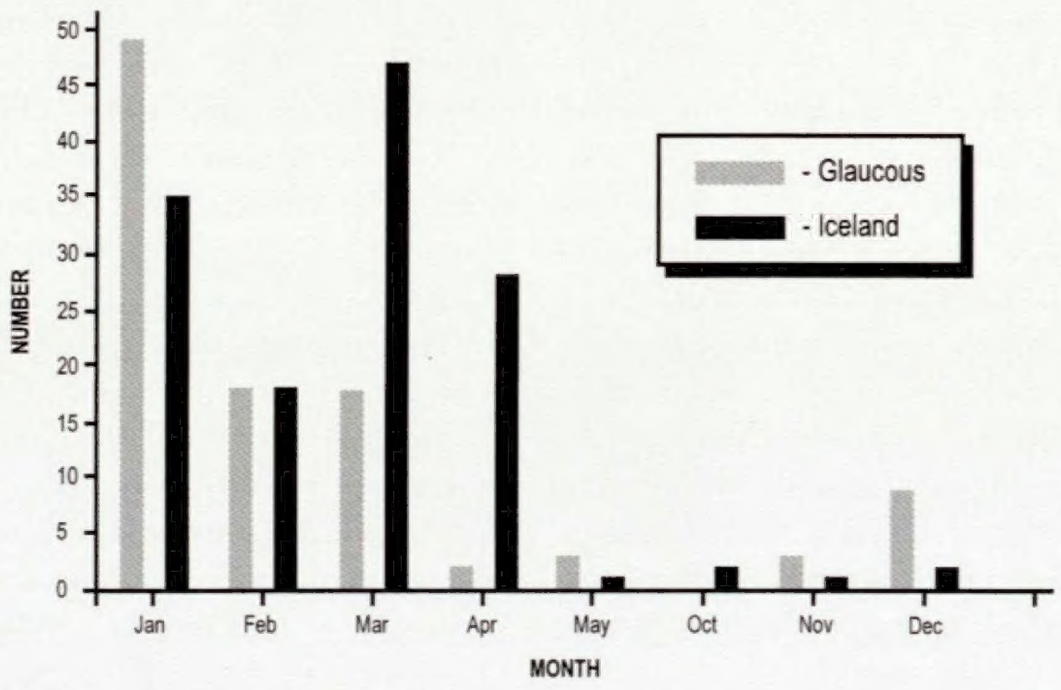
The year began with cold and foggy conditions, with a light covering of snow in the west, that lasted for the first week, followed by some periods of sun in the second week. Keen birders out on New Year's Day located the Siberian Chiffchaff and Firecrest at New Swillington Ings that remained from 2001, single Great Bitterns at Potteric Carr and Wintersett, a Great Northern Diver in Filey Bay, and a Long-tailed Duck at Tophill Low, together with eight Glaucous Gulls reported from as many sites. A Green-winged Teal briefly visited Routh Quarry in East Yorkshire from 5th to 7th, later re-appearing at Tophill Low, but a surprise was a Great White Egret found at Riccall found on 8th and remaining to 15th. There were only a few records of the scarce grebes and divers on the coast, with Thrybergh CP hosting a Black-necked Grebe on 30th. Gull watchers covering the reservoirs and tips picked out four Yellow-legged Gulls amongst the Glaucous and Icelands, with two more records from Spurn. Horned Larks were particularly scarce this winter, with singles seen at Flamborough on 9th, 17th, and Atwick Gap on 12th.

The latter half of the month was mild and windy, becoming even milder towards month end, but also windier, with strong south-westerly winds. The monthly average temperature was up 2 degrees Celsius compared to the long-term averages. These conditions may explain the appearance of a Little Egret at Lindley Wood Res near Leeds on 19th, a rare winter record. On the same day, two Water Pipits were found at Sammy's Point, Easington, whilst on 29th a Firecrest was found in Rotherham.

February

The mild and windy conditions continued into the first week of February, and the month proved to be one of mildest on record, up 3 degrees on the average, but the south-west winds and Atlantic depressions also brought rain. There were severe floods in the north-

Monthly comparison of Iceland and Glaucous Gulls 2002



west of the county. During this period, the winter fare remained largely unchanged, with a few Mandarin Ducks located on inland waters, half a dozen Velvet Scoters reported from the coast and wintering Great Bitterns from a few sites. On 10th a Cetti's Warbler was located, or re-located, at Potteric Carr, remaining into March.

From the 13th, there was a spell of cold and clear weather associated with high pressure, with three Great Northern Divers noted in this period, and a Leach's Petrel picked up moribund in Malton on 24th. This record immediately preceded north-west to westerly storm force winds gusting to force 12 on 25th and 26th, with some snow showers. This weather no doubt had a part to play in the sighting that kicked off the following month.

March

There was a cold but bright and sunny start to the month, although heavy snow fell in North Yorkshire on 9th. A Great Shearwater flew north past Flamborough on 1st, Yorkshire's first March record. A Firecrest was in Scarborough on 5th and a Common Crane at Saltburn on 10th. Perhaps as many as eighteen different Iceland Gulls were reported in the first fortnight passing through the county, providing a total of 45 records. This passage continued into April.

The wind increased on 10th with warmer southerlies, but snow returned on 14th. On 11th a Red-crested Pochard was at Broomfleet Brickponds, a Firecrest was at Kilnsea on 12th and the first Egyptian Goose at Spurn for 17 years on 14th. On 15th March, there were gale force easterlies, followed by southerly winds again, with periods of poor visibility on coast. A Ross's Gull, part of British influx of eight birds, commenced an extended stay at Scarborough on 16th. Early migrants also appeared including the first Osprey at Sheffield on 16th, an influx of Common Cranes from 16th to 19th, with 21 reports over these three days and four coastal Firecrests. On 21st, a White-spotted Bluethroat was seen at Blacktoft Sands RSPB reserve, on 23rd a Grey Phalarope at Flamborough, on 24th an Alpine Swift was seen over Cottingham near Hull, and a Great Grey Shrike was on Barden Moor on 26th. Three Black-necked Grebes were at North Duffield Carrs on 29th, potential breeding birds. There was a flurry of activity on the last day of the month, when four Ospreys were noted, a Red-rumped Swallow was over the Brigg end at Filey and later passed Reighton, and another Ross's Gull was discovered, the Scarborough bird still being present, this time at the unexpected location of Blacktoft Sands. It flew past Brough Haven later the same day.

April

April was generally a warm and dry month. It began with southerlies and mist on the coast, with easterlies on 5th. A Red-rumped Swallow was an unexpected find in East Park, Hull on 2nd, and unusually remained to 23rd. The first Eurasian Spoonbill of the year passed east at Blacktoft on 4th, and a scattering of Black-necked Grebes arrived, whilst a few migrant Firecrest moved through in this period and the first Dotterel, with three near North Newbald from 13th. From the 16th there were northerlies for a few days. Nevertheless, the 18th brought an Alpine Swift to Filey CP. A spell of warmer weather from 19th to 23rd coincided with a Great White Egret at Leyburn and a Little Egret at Filey, both on 19th, a Stone Curlew at Starr Carrs near Scarborough on 21st, and wandering Egyptian Geese seen at Scarborough and Spurn on 22nd, with one later at Potteric Carr on 29th. Black-necked Grebes continued to be found, and White Stork sightings in the east of the county were intriguing. On 25th the first Montagu's Harrier of the year was at Easington and Spurn, and

on 26th and 27th a Pectoral Sandpiper was at Scalby Lodge pond. There was colder weather for the last few days and little of note.

May

The month commenced with a Hoopoe at Hutton-le-Hole on 1st, probably the result of strong south-westerlies, and these also brought a good passage of Ospreys through the county. Other migrants from this vector included a Common Nightingale at Kilnsea on 2nd, up to 13 Dotterel on Ingleborough from 3rd to 5th, and a Red-rumped Swallow at Spurn on 4th. A northerly blow followed on 5th and 6th, with cooler northerlies with some east on 8th, resulting in lower temperatures. A few migrants were grounded, including Wrynecks at Spurn on 7th and 8th, a Temminck's Stint at Beal Carrs on 7th and 8th, a Thrush Nightingale at Spurn from 8th to 10th, a Bluethroat at Filey CP also on 8th, with a White-winged Tern at Coatham Marsh on 9th, seen the following day at Bolton-on-Swale GP. A drake Long-tailed Duck on the Humber at Spurn on 10th was coincidentally followed by the first two Long-tailed Skuas of the year over the Humber on 11th. The second Stone Curlew of the year turned up at Beacon Ponds NR on 14th, but the 15th saw a Broad-billed Sandpiper at Nosterfield and a Greater Short-toed Lark at Filey.

Unsettled conditions continued. The second Hoopoe of the year was at High Eske on the River Hull on 18th, with the year's second coastal Bluethroat the same day, this time at Spurn. On 19th, a female Red-footed Falcon was at North Duffield Carrs, and an elusive Great Reed Warbler was singing at Hummersea. A few Temminck's Stints passed through on 20th and 21st, but a superb adult Roseate Tern at Old Moor Wetlands on 21st was a good find. An Icterine Warbler was singing at Flamborough on 22nd, and the Honey Buzzards returned to Wykeham forest on 23rd. From 24th, there was a switch to south-westerlies, with good visible migration and warm winds from the south to the month end. There was a small influx of Little Egrets, and Golden Orioles were seen at St. Ives near Bradford on 25th and Spurn on 29th and 31st.

June

June began gloriously, with warm southerlies, and dry and sunny conditions to 4th. It also began with a Terek Sandpiper and two European Bee-eaters at Beacon Ponds NR. Over the next three days a number of Little Egrets appeared, with Temminck's Stints passing through North Cave Wetlands and Blacktoft Sands, a Serin and a Common Rosefinch at Spurn on 2nd, an Icterine Warbler at Sammy's Point on 3rd and Golden Orioles at Spurn on 3rd and East Ayton on 4th. On 5th, there were north-easterlies and rain, but two more Golden Orioles appeared, this time at Scarborough and Spurn. On 6th the wind blew directly from the east, and a number of migrants could be seen on the coast, including Marsh Warbler at Whitestone Point and Icterine Warblers at Filey and Spurn, culminating in a purple patch at South Gare on 8th, where there single Marsh, Icterine and Subalpine Warblers and a fine male Rosy Starling. Elsewhere on the coast, a Rosy Starling was at Whitestone Point from 8th to 10th and another at Runswick Bay from 9th to 13th, with Scalby and Filey. Inland was equally interesting, with a European Bee-eater at Keighley on 7th, two Common Rosefinch at Thirsk from 7th to 10th, and singles at Malham on 11th and at Giggleswick from 11th. A Marsh Sandpiper was at Leventhorpe Hall Ponds on 8th and 9th. Five more Rosy Starlings were to be found over the next fortnight, whilst two Common Cranes resided on the carrs at the eastern end of the Vale of Pickering, where a Corn Crake could be heard.

There were storms mid-month, and

migration slowed down, but southerlies and south-easterlies resumed towards the end of the month. A Red-necked Phalarope briefly visited Blacktoft Sands on 19th, where a white-spotted Bluethroat could be regularly seen. Eurasian Spoonbills were reported from Brough Airfield Marsh, Blacktoft Sands and Filey; two Roseate Terns were seen at Flamborough on 18th and three at South Gare on 21st. The number of records of Yellow-legged Gull also showed a marked increase. Fresh north-westerlies on 28th and 29th brought unsettled conditions and few birds.

July

The north-westerlies continued at the start of the month and single Balearic Shearwaters passed Flamborough on 2nd and 6th. There were fresh south-easterly winds on 5th, but the 6th was calm enough for petrel ringing to start at Filey on 6th. Also on 6th two European Bee-eaters were seen at Bishop Monkton in North Yorkshire, and four flew south at Spurn. Late Long-tailed Ducks flew north at Atwick on 6th and 13th, and a Cory's Shearwater flew past Flamborough on 7th. Westerly winds then dominated, and the weather was generally dry and sunny. Another Rosy Starling was found, this time at Stillingfleet on 11th, and the year's second Marsh Sandpiper nearby at Blacktoft Sands on 12th. Both lingered, and not far away a stunning male Red-backed shrike was at Hooton Pagnall near Doncaster on 12th and 13th. From 13th, a pair of Common Cranes took up residence in the Wiske Valley in North Yorkshire.

A Cory's Shearwater passed Flamborough on 18th, and following brisk north-westerlies on 20th, singles were seen there on 21st and 22, with a Red-necked Grebe at Spurn on 21st, two more at Hornsea on 29th, and a handful of Velvet Scoter during this period. A couple of Montagu's Harriers were noted, at Whitgift and Atwick, a drake Surf Scoter was at Flamborough on 28th, and despite flash floods at the end of the month and 3 inches rain in West Yorkshire, a Pectoral Sandpiper was at Old Moor Wetland on 30th and 31st.

August

There was some heavy rain at start of the month in West Yorkshire again, but easterly and north-easterly winds prevailed at the start of the month. A moulting Grey Phalarope was found at Ladybridge Lake on 2nd, and the first coastal migrants included Icterine Warblers at Flamborough on 2nd and 6th, Aquatic Warbler on the canal at Spurn, and Red-backed Shrike at Filey on 5th and 6th. It was Skipsea's turn for a Rosy Starling, present from 7th to 12th, and another two Bee-eaters were found, this time at Auckley Common near Doncaster on 8th. Four Bee-eaters were later reported as being present around this time at Newton Kyne, remaining for several weeks. On 10th, there were westerlies and heavy rain....indeed Filey saw a flash flood that brought three and a half inches of rain in 5 hours. An Ortolan Bunting was found at Spurn on 10th, a Red-necked Phalarope was at Hornsea Mere on 12th and 13th, and a White-rumped Sandpiper was a pleasant surprise at Filey Old Tip on 15th.

High pressure on 16th brought a Marsh Warbler to Flamborough, whilst seven Ruddy Shelduck of unknown origin flew east at Southfield Res. There were south-easterlies on 17th, bringing Icterine Warbler and Red-backed Shrike the following day to Spurn, but south-westerlies dominated the next week, with north-westerlies towards the end of the month, strongest on 24th. Sea-watchers at Flamborough noted from 18th Balearic Shearwater, Long-tailed Skua and Grey Phalarope, with a Great Shearwater and a European Storm-petrel on 22nd. There was also a Rosy Starling ay Flamborough from 20th to 24th. Spotted Crakes appeared at Old Moor

and Blacktoft Sands, with Cory's Shearwater and two Roseate Terns past Filey Brigg on 24th. There was a small fall of scarce migrants also on 24th with two Icterine Warblers and a Barred Warbler at Spurn and a Red-backed Shrike at Flamborough. Strong northerlies on 25th brought the prize of a Fea's Petrel past Flamborough and later Filey Brigg on 26th, with two Great Shearwaters past Flamborough also on 26th and another past Long Nab Burniston on 27th. Three Sabine's Gulls passed Flamborough on 27th, and two passed Long Nab on 28th, with an early Great Northern Diver at Redcar on 29th. Migrant passerines included the first Red-breasted Flycatcher of the autumn at Filey on 26th, and Barred Warblers to Spurn on 26th and Flamborough on 28th.

September

The month began with light westerlies on 1st and 2nd, but these followed north-westerlies at the end of August, so another Fea's Petrel past Flamborough on 1st was not such a great surprise. On the same sea-watch were a Grey Phalarope, two Long-tailed Skuas and a Sabine's Gull. Also on 1st, and providing a counter attraction at the other side of the county, a Two-barred Crossbill offered mostly fleeting views at Bole Edge plantation from 1st to 5th. There was another Ortolan Bunting at Spurn on 2nd, but on 3rd there were light easterlies, with fine weather only briefly for a few days, and the first Wryneck duly appeared at Spurn on 3rd. On 5th at Flamborough there was another Great Shearwater, and the first of the autumn's Black-throated Divers. On 6th two Wrynecks were found in West Yorkshire, one at Paul Clough in the Bradford District, and another at Littlethorpe in the Harrogate District, that remained to 15th. A Scottish radio-tagged Honey Buzzard slipped unseen through the county from 8th to 10th.

The 9th and 10th saw easterlies with torrential rain, with high pressure over Scandinavia, low pressure to west and an occluded front moving east (taken from Filey Report), This resulted in a huge fall of coastal migrants on 9th, with new arrivals on 10th. During the period 9th – 14th, at various points on the coast, 24 Wrynecks were found, with seven of these at Spurn; 10 Icterine Warblers, five Barred Warblers; four Greenish Warblers including two at South Gare on 9th, one at Bempton from 12th – 15th and one at Spurn on 14th and 15th; four Grey-headed Wagtails at Spurn on 10th and another at Flamborough on 13th; an early Richard's Pipit at Grimston on 9th; 13 Red-backed Shrikes and six Red-breasted Flycatchers. Other good finds included a Black Kite at Whitestone Point, a Pectoral Sandpiper at Filey Dams and single Dotterel at Boulby, Crook Ness and Flamborough, all on 10th, a Pectoral Sandpiper at Scalby Lodge Pond on 11th, and a Honey Buzzard over Boulby Cliffs on 12th with another over Nunkeeling on 13th. A migrant Corn Crake was found dead under wires at Brompton near Scarborough on 13th, and the first Yellow-browed Warbler of the autumn was at Spurn on 14th.

There was a fresh north-westerly breeze on 15th, but another wave of eight Red-breasted Flycatchers arrived, to Cloughton, Flamborough and two at Spurn on 15th and three more at Flamborough, one more at Spurn, and one at Aldbrough on 16th. Twelve Yellow-legged Gulls were at Southfield Res on 16th, when a Sabine's Gull passed Flamborough, with a Cory's Shearwater past Long Nab Burniston on 17th and another Sabine's Gull at Flamborough on 18th. On 19th, a Black Stork flew over Angler's CP, a complete surprise to the lucky observers. A Little Bunting appeared at Spurn on 19th and remained for over a week, and a few other migrants continued to appear on the coast.

Gale force northerlies overnight on 21st and into 22nd deposited many seabirds in North Sea, the pick of the crop being the Black-browed Albatross that flew north past Spurn on 22nd, followed by the third Fea's Petrel of the year past Flamborough Head on 23rd in lighter north-easterly winds. Accompanying these two star birds were 13 Velvet Scoters, up to 38 Long-tailed Skuas, four Little Auks, a single Balearic Shearwater past Staithes on 22nd, a Cory's Shearwater past Scalby Ness on 23rd, and a Grey Phalarope and a Sabine's Gull past Atwick on 22nd.

Inland, a Buff-breasted Sandpiper was found at Bank Island in the Lower Derwent Valley on 25th, remaining to 5th October, with a Pectoral Sandpiper joining it from 26th to 3rd October. Amongst the few coastal migrants, which included a single Yellow-browed Warbler at Flamborough on 27th-28th and two at Spurn on 28th, the county's second Citrine Wagtail was located at Flamborough on 27th, remaining on the Golf Course to 30th. The month ended with moderate north-westerly winds

October

The month started with southerlies and south-westerlies for the first week. A Yellow-browed Warbler was at Long Nab, Burniston on 1st, and on 4th, an American Wigeon was found at Scalby Mills. An Alpine Swift flew west over Fairburn Ings on 5th. There was a reasonable passage over the sea on 6th, when two Balearic Shearwaters and single Sabine's Gulls passed both Scarborough and Flamborough Head, and four Leach's Storm-petrels flew north at Flamborough. Ten Long-tailed Skuas were seen, with one south past Long Nab Burniston and the remainder past Flamborough.

Over the next fortnight, there were frequent easterlies with rain, and strong easterly to south-easterlies from 9th to 15th, with south-easterlies on 11th, together with clear skies over Germany, encouraged a strong movement of yellow-browed Warblers and particularly Firecrests. Twelve Yellow-browed Warblers were found on the coast between 7th and 12th. On 9th 22 Firecrests were found in the Spurn to Easington area, with others at Atwick and Flamborough. Seventeen more were found at Spurn on 12th, with 22 elsewhere on the coast, and 26 at Flamborough on 13th, with a further eight elsewhere. There were at least 119 reports in the period 9th to 24th October. Amongst this feathered flurry were a Red-throated Pipit at Flamborough on 11th, five Richards Pipits, a Blyth's Reed Warbler at Filey from 12th to 16th, Pallas's Leaf Warblers at South Gare, Flamborough (2), Holmpton and Spurn (2), seven Great Grey Shrikes, with four at Flamborough, and singles at Easington, Kilnsea and Spurn, and single Red-breasted Flycatchers at Holmpton and Spurn. In Scarborough Harbour there was a Grey Phalarope on 14th with others at Filey and Spurn on 21st, and there was a small movement of Horned Larks. Other highlights included a Little Bunting on 18th and 19th, a Siberian Chiffchaff at Flamborough on 20th, and completely out the blue, or more likely off a ship, a White-throated Sparrow that remained at Flamborough Head from 22nd to 29th.

From 24th south-westerlies returned and migrant passerines on the coast became scarce, although there was a late Red-backed Shrike at Easington on 28th and a Red-breasted Flycatcher at Buckton on 30th. A few Firecrests had dispersed inland, with birds noted in Leeds and at Old Denaby on 29th. The south-westerlies brought a late European Storm-petrel past Long Nab, Burniston, on 27th and a Sabine's Gull past Flamborough the same day, three Grey Phalaropes to the coast and one inland at Sprotborough Flash from 29th to 31st, a few Little Auks and on the last day of the month a Great Northern Diver to Leeming Res.

November

The Great Northern Diver was relocated on Leeshaw Res on 1st, (later moving to Lower Laithe Res from 3rd), on a day that started misty with light winds. A Grey Phalarope was at Nosterfield NR and remained to 5th, and Greater Short-toed Lark and Richard's Pipit were both found at Aldbrough. On 2nd, another Richard's Pipit was found, this time at Filey, and a juvenile Dotterel was picked out in a Golden Plover flock at Old Moor, also remaining to 5th. A Horned Lark was found well inland at Warley Moor Res, Bradford, remaining to 3rd. On 3rd two more Richards Pipits were found at BLNR. On 6th, four Taiga Bean Geese were at Wykeham Lakes on 6th, with two still there on 15th, two Common Cranes flew south at Spurn, and a Firecrest was found in Huddersfield also on 6th. On 9th a Rough-legged Buzzard was in Sleddale, and a Caspian Gull was identified at Anglers CP. 24 Little Auks passed Flamborough Head on 9th in front of a weather change.

On 10th, there were fresh south-easterlies and a storm on 11th, with winds moving to the north-east on 14th and 16th. A European Storm-petrel flew north at Filey on 10th, together with single Black-throated and Great Northern Divers, and a few divers of each species were reported from other sites during this period. A Horned Lark was at Pott Moor, Harrogate, on 16th and a Richards Pipit was at Spurn on 17th.

There were southerlies for the final week. A Grey Phalarope was at Edderthorpe Flash on 23rd November, when 116 Little Auks were reported flying south along the coast from various sites. Another inland Firecrest was found at Aspley on 26th, and a Water Pipit at Long Nab, Burniston on 26th was an unusual coastal record. Two Red-crested Pochard at Scalby Mills on 28th were equally surprising.

December

The month had a wet start with strong south-westerlies. A female Ring-necked Duck was found at North Cave Wetlands on 2nd, remaining to the end of the year, with a drake at Staveley NR on 7th and a drake at Hornsea Mere on 8th and 9th, with a fourth bird, a female, at Hornsea Mere on 9th and 10th. Also at Staveley, a Night Heron of unknown origin remained from 7th to 10th. A Black-necked Grebe was at Blacktoft Sands on 3rd and 7th and a Firecrest at Tophill Low NR on 7th and 8th. The American Wigeon previously at Pugney's was found at Dewsbury SF on 9th.

From 9th to 12th there were gale-force south-easterly to easterly winds at Spurn, with north-easterlies noted at Filey on 10th. A few Long-tailed Ducks, Velvet Scoters and Little Auks were all noted on the coast in this period, with 13 Great Northern Divers reported from Flamborough during the month. A Great Northern Diver was on Easington Lagoons Ponds on 12th, and a Black-throated Diver in Scarborough harbour on 16th and 17th, with two Red-necked Grebes there on 27th. Two Egyptian Geese were at Hilston and Hornsea on 18th and 19th, 20 Mandarin Ducks were counted both at Harewood House and in Strid woods on 20th, and a Tundra Bean Goose was at Ladybridge Lake on 22nd. On Christmas Day two Firecrests were found, one at Birkby and one in Rother Valley CP.

A Rough-legged Buzzard was at Scaling Dam Res on 27th, two Slavonian Grebes were at Scarborough on 29th, two Little Auks passed South Gare on 29th and on 31st, an immature drake Ring-necked Duck appeared in East Park, Hull. Heavy rain at end of year caused flooding in some places.

SYSTEMATIC LIST 2002

All rare and unusual species in this Report have been considered by the Reports Committee of the YNU and found to be acceptable on the evidence supplied by the observers. Records that require national verification have been submitted and accepted by the *British Birds Rarities Committee* (BBRC). The sequence and nomenclature used is that of the BOU *Checklist of Birds of Britain and Ireland* (sixth edition, 1992), updated BOU 2001. All BOURC Category A and Category C species that comprise species on the British List are included in the Systematic List.

The new sequence

ABBREVIATIONS

BLNR	Beacon Lagoons Nature Reserve
CP	Country Park
GC	Golf Course
GP	Gravel Pit
LDNNR	Lower Derwent National Nature Reserve
NR	Nature Reserve
PHENR	Puffin and High Eske Nature Reserve
Res	Reservoir
RVCP	Rother Valley Country Park
SF	Sewage Farm
TLNR	Tophill Low Nature Reserve

SPECIES STATUS

A preliminary statement indicates the status of each species in Yorkshire as included within five Watsonian vice-counties.

Vagrant	Up to 10 records in total since records began
Rare	1-10 individuals each year in the past 10 years
Scarce	11-100 individuals each year in the past 10 years
Uncommon	101-1000 individuals each year in the past 10 years

SPECIES TOTALS in the name line refer to the number of records reported over the last four years, including the current year.

PREVIOUS RECORDS referred to in the status line in this report refer to the number of previous records, not including the current year, accepted by the YNU. If the species is or was under the jurisdiction of BBRC, the totals only include records accepted and published by that body. Birds seen at more than one location in the same year and considered to refer to probably the same individual(s) are regarded as a single record. Birds seen at more than one location in the same year but considered to refer to possibly the same individual(s) are regarded as separate records. In a limited number of occasions, a record may consist of more than one individual (e.g. parties of European Bee-eaters *Merops apiaster* and some waders).

SPECIES

BLACK-THROATED DIVER *Gavia arctica* 139,166,74,107,73

Uncommon coastal passage migrant and winter visitor; rare inland

Small numbers breed in Scotland, but the origin of most of our winter visitors are from Scandinavia and northern Russia.

Singles off Redcar on 6th and Runswick Bay on 21st January started the year off, with one in Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 29th plus five were recorded at Flamborough Head in the month. On 3rd February a lone bird on the sea at Spurn Point was followed with another next day at Ulrome and in Jackson's Bay one was present on 5th. One flew south then north at Spurn Point on 8th, with one at Marske two days later, and one in Burniston Bay on 21st. Four birds were recorded at Flamborough in February. Inland records of spring birds were on 10th March at Brandesburton, 21st to 23rd March at Scaling Dam Res and on Hornsea Mere 28th to 29th March. A single in Scarborough Bay on 29th March followed the only Flamborough record of the month on 25th March. On 8th April one was present on Wykeham Lakes, whilst singles were seen at Flamborough on four consecutive days from 11th. One flew over a Knaresborough garden on 20th April (JRM). The only multiple sighting in spring was of two in Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 6th May, with five singles at Flamborough early in the month.

During September there was one at Flamborough Head on 5th and 7th, one at Long Nab, Burniston on 9th then at Spurn Point one on 15th, two on both 17th and 18th with another on 24th, and one off Scalby Ness on 26th. One flew north off Filey Brigg on 22nd October, with another on the sea there on 29th. Flamborough Head had two singles during October, five during November and 5 during December. Lone birds were off Scalby Ness and Atwick Gap on 3rd November, Marine Drive Scarborough and Spurn Point on 9th, Filey Brigg on 10th, Scalby Ness on 11th, Aldbrough on 12th and Ulrome on 17th. One flew over Scalby Lodge Pond on 24th (MF). Two were on the sea off Scalby Ness on 2nd December and one remained in Scarborough Harbour on 16th and 17th. A long staying winter bird was found on Pugney's CP on 9th December and remained until the year end at least.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer* 99,158,105,122,83

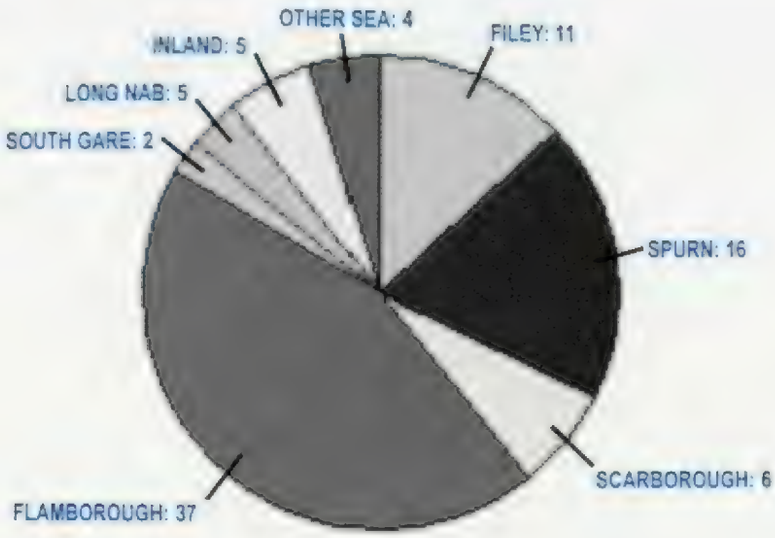
Uncommon coastal passage migrant and winter visitor; rare inland

A regular winter visitor from Iceland and Greenland, the nearest breeding grounds of this essentially Nearctic species.

In the north of the county singles were at South Gare early in January and late in February, with others off Redcar on 29th August and Marske on 28th November. One was in South Bay, Scarborough on 6th January and one in Jackson's Bay on 17th. Singles were observed off Long Nab, Burniston: one in spring on 16th March and others in autumn on 9th and 23rd September. In Scarborough, one was present off the Marine Drive on 18th October, with it or another north off Jackson's Bay on 20th and north past the Marine Drive on 30th. Two flew south off the Marine Drive on 9th December.

Filey Bay hosted one on 1st January, then two flew south off the Brigg on 24th February. In May a summer plumaged bird flew north on 9th, with other singles flying south on 23rd September and north on 10th November. Two birds flew south on 17th and 23rd November with singles then on four dates in December.

Great Northern Diver 2002



Flamborough Head produced more records than any other site. The first were of two on 27th January, then three in February, two singles in March on 2nd and 24th then one on 2nd April. Just a single off there in September, on 17th, then 10 on six dates in October with three on 6th. Five were seen on four dates in November and finally the largest numbers were of 13 in December with two on 7th and three on 19th.

Spurn Point records for the year were of two flying north on 4th January, one north on 31st January, one south on 18th and north on 22nd February, finally in spring one south 2nd March. Autumn movement commenced with two flying out of the River Humber on 28th September, singles on 13th, 20th and 31st October. One flew south on 3rd November with two then south on the 9th, one offshore on 11th November and then finally one on 2nd December. A bird was also present between BLNR and Easington Lagoons seen from 5th to 14th December.

Away from the regular coastal localities a full-summer plumaged bird was present in spring at Blackmoorfoot Res on 23rd April (MLD *et al*). Two autumn inland birds were seen, firstly on 30th and 31st October at Pugney's CP, then on 31st October a first-winter plumaged bird was found at Leeming Res (MS), before being seen then at Leeshaw Res on 1st and 2nd November and finally at Lower Laithe Res on 3rd.

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena* 101,45,40,26,48

Scarce or uncommon migrant and winter visitor

Breeds sporadically on fresh water in Western Europe, much commoner from Eastern Europe eastwards. Disperses westwards to salt or tidal waters, and is more common in the county when hard weather pushes continental winterers further west.

On 5th January two were seen, one at Flamborough Head and one at South Gare which remained until 6th, with others at Flamborough Head on 20th and at Runswick Bay on 21st being the only winter sightings. Only one per month was recorded in spring with birds at South Gare on 14th March, Eccup Res on 11th April and Filey Bay on 29th May. During July two flew north at Spurn Point on 21st then two more north off Hornsea on 29th, which were seen on the sea off Ulrome next day.

An adult and a juvenile were present in Filey Bay on 3rd August, the latter still being present

Red-rumped Swallow *East Park, Hull,* April 2002 M. Ashforth

Red-rumped Swallow *East Park, Hull,* April 2002 I. Leach

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Filey*, October 2002 J. Harriman

Icterine Warbler *Sammys Point, Easington*, September 2002 J. Harriman

Citrine Wagtail *Flamborough*, September 2002 G. Taylor

White-throated Sparrow *Flamborough*, October 2002 G. Taylor

Little Bunting *Atwick*, October 2002 G. Taylor

Red-necked Grebe *Scarborough*, October 2002 G. Taylor

next day and seen regularly until 26th October, with one south off Long Nab, Burniston on 22nd August and another south on 9th September. Other sightings at Filey were of one south on 8th October and north on 22nd and 23rd October. Singles passing Flamborough Head were noted on 24th and 27th August, then on six dates in September, five on three dates in October, one on 1st November and finally one on 7th December. On 23rd September one was on the sea at Spurn Point and two others flew north there, one of which was seen later flying north off Ulrome, then next day one was located on the sea offshore there. In October two were found on Scarborough Mere on 11th remaining to 28th. Atwick hosted two birds on 23rd November with one remaining up to 29th at least, before the final record of the year of two in Scarborough Harbour on 27th December.

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus* 30,26,23,16,30

Scarce migrant and winter visitor, more frequent in autumn

A small breeding population of the larger-billed form in Scotland, but mostly breeds from Sweden eastwards, and it is the smaller-billed eastern population that visits us in winter.

Singles in January were seen at Spurn Point on 3rd, flying south offshore, at South Gare on 12th and on Hornsea Mere on 12th and 19th. Two long staying individuals were found in winter with one present in Filey Bay from 15th January to 11th March and a second bird on Scaling Dam Res from January through to 1st March. One was in Cayton Bay on 17th February and one in South Bay, Scarborough on 28th. A fine record of three almost full-summer plumaged birds was noted on 31st March as they drifted north offshore at Barmston (MGH), with another the same day in Scarborough Bay. Two summer-plumaged birds were seen for three days at South Gare from 1st April, then the only spring inland record was of one at Pugney's CP on 19th April.

Flamborough Head observers noted the first autumn bird flying north on 2nd August, with one north at Scalby Ness on 23rd and one on the River Humber at Spurn on 27th. One flew north at Flamborough on 7th October and two were on the sea off South Landing on 17th November. One flew north at Spurn on 9th November. Offshore birds were then seen in Filey Bay on 20th December and two were at Scarborough on 29th, one in South Bay and one in Cayton Bay.

The remaining six birds seen in winter were all inland sightings. One was at PHENR on 2nd November (DGH), one also at Thrybergh CP from 18th November to 18th December and one on North Cave Wetlands on 17th December. A single at Welton Water on 23rd November may have been the same as the one there from 24th to 31st December, but one at Thrybergh CP from 25th to 28th December was considered to be different from the one last seen the week before.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis* 29,74,46,59,43

Rare recent breeding species, scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

Breeds sporadically in the county and elsewhere in Britain, with a distribution stretching from Spain eastwards, generally to the south of the preceding species.

A single was present at Thrybergh CP on 30th January, then at South Gare one was found on 24th February remaining until 14th March, with others there on 21st and 22nd March and finally a summer-plumaged bird on 7th and 8th April. Three were at North Duffield Carrs on 29th March (RSS), then two at Nosterfield NR on 31st (SPWo). North Cave Wetlands held adults on 3rd April and again from 12th to 18th (GAD) with other April singles being seen at

Hornsea Mere on 4th and 5th, and Nosterfield on 30th (SPWo). Two were at Tophill Low from 4th to 7th April then two at Wintersett Res on 18th April (LY) and one there from 26th April to 1st May (PM). Two summer-plumaged birds were also seen at Scaling Dam Res, on 25th April. Into May, with records of two at Pugney's CP on 7th, two at Fairburn Ings on 8th and 9th with one remaining until 22nd, and one at Tophill Low on 19th. Blackmoorfoot Res played host to two on 3rd June (DMO), with two again on 23rd June (PB: PBr: MLD) and at least one of them still present on 20th July (MLD) with presumably this bird being the one recorded at Deer Hill Res from 19th to 26th July. Back at Fairburn Ings, another bird was noted from 20th July for three days (VP) then another three day stayer was at Edderthorpe Flash from 10th August. A juvenile was at Thrybergh CP on 18th August.

A juvenile was reported from Blackmoorfoot Res on 15th September (PDB) with singles on Hornsea Mere on 24th and Eccup Res on 28th of the month. Only one record per month in the final quarter, with lone birds at Wintersett Res on 18th October, Filey Dams from 22nd to 24th November and Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 3rd and 7th December.

BLACK-BROWED ALBATROSS *Diomedea melanophris* 0,0,0,0,1

Vagrant, usually in autumn; 5 previous records

Breeds on islands in the South Atlantic and Indian Oceans, and occasionally wanders into the North Atlantic, with one long-staying individual returning to Scotland from 1967 to 1994 accounting for many of the 30 or so reports from British waters, thought to refer to about 17 individuals.

An adult of this most sensational seabird flew north offshore at Spurn Point on 22nd September (LJD: DH: TMc: JW *et al*).It was later seen off Lothian in October. A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding 11:3 pp 99-101.*

MADEIRA/CAPE VERDE PETREL *Pterodroma feae/madeira* 0,1,0,1,3

Vagrant in late summer/autumn; 3 previous records

P. feae is the more numerous of this species pair, breeding in Madeira and the Cape Verde Isles, and dispersing throughout the North Atlantic, whilst *P. madeira* has a breeding population of only c. 20-30 pairs, but all British records have been accepted as either/or. This year doubled the county's total.

One flew north off Flamborough Head on 26th August (PAL: IM *et al*) then was seen from 09.15 as it continued northwards off Filey Brigg (AN: JMT *et al*). Singles were then seen flying offshore at Flamborough Head on 1st September (PR: BR: GJS: *et al*), and on 23rd September (PAL: JMc *et al*).

CORY'S SHEARWATER *Calonectris diomedea* 7,10,5,41,8

Rare late summer/autumn coastal vagrant from Mediterranean/North Atlantic

Breeds on the Atlantic Islands off West Africa, with a separate form *C. d. scopoli* breeding in the Mediterranean. Post-breeding dispersal into the North Atlantic occurs, and some reach the North Sea, especially if weather conditions assist.

As is the norm with many seabird species Flamborough Head recorded the lion's share of the records, being seen singularly in July on 7th, (PAL: IM: BR), 18th, (AMA: PAL: IM: RSt), 21st, (BR *et al*) and 22nd (PAL) and again on 3rd August (BR *et al*).

The birds seen on 21st July and 3rd August were both described as the Mediterranean race,

Scopoli's Shearwater, *Calonectris diomedea scopoli* although neither was accepted as such by the BBRC.

On 24th August one flew past Filey Brigg at 06.50 (JMT) and finally two were seen in September, one from Long Nab, Scarborough on 17th (NWA), then one flying north past Scalby Ness on 23rd (RHA).

GREAT SHEARWATER *Puffinus gravis* 3,12,7,1,7

Rare coastal vagrant, mainly in late summer/autumn, from South Atlantic

Breeds at three sites in the South Atlantic, and is a transequatorial migrant, moving clockwise around the North Atlantic and reaching British waters from July to October.

The four following records were all from Flamborough Head and refer to birds passing north. An out of season individual on the 1st March was the first March record for Flamborough and only the second for the United Kingdom (PAL). In August two passed on both 22nd and 26th (AMA: PAL: JMP: DT: BH) finally another was seen on 5th September.

BALEARIC SHEARWATER *Puffinus mauretanicus* 28,47,67,57,29

Scarce coastal migrant, mainly in late summer/autumn

Breeds in the Mediterranean Sea, from where post-breeding dispersal takes place. It is a regular visitor to British waters with around 1,000 individuals currently reported annually.

Flamborough Head recorded one each day on 2nd and 6th July, then two on 18th August with a further three the next day. In September singles were observed on eight dates with three also being seen on 15th, then into October with one on 5th, two on 6th and a last bird of the year on 30th (GNM).

Observations away from Flamborough totalled six birds, the first being seen in Bridlington Bay on 7th September from the RSPB cruise ship. Following from that date birds were seen off Long Nab, Burniston on 9th and 13th September and Staithes on 22nd September. Two were also seen off Scarborough on 6th October (RHA).

EUROPEAN STORM-PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus* 67,38,41,111,75

Scarce coastal migrant and non-breeding visitor to the coast; rare inland

This species breeds on islands off the west coast of Britain, coming ashore at night. It disperses southwards in autumn to the South Atlantic, and gale-driven birds can sometimes be seen off the Yorkshire coast at this time. In summer, pre-breeding wanderers are present in the North Sea and respond to tape luring.

Coastal trapping overnight in summer resulted in 59 birds being ringed at Flamborough Head between June and September, three of which were controls of previously ringed Norwegian birds. Overnight trapping at Filey on the evenings of 6th, 12th, 14th, and 22nd July resulted in a further nine birds being ringed and on 26th July a further two were processed at Marske (DAM *et al*).

Seawatching observations of this species were scant as normal with singles off Flamborough on 4th August and 22nd August. Later in the autumn one was off Long Nab, Burniston on 27th October and another flew north off Filey Brigg on 10th November (PLM: JS: CCT: JMT). An unusual record was from Spurn Point where one was found dead on the road on 5th November.

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* 3,10,4,2,7

Rare coastal migrant, usually during late autumn; rare inland

This species breeds on remote islands off north and north-west Scotland and Ireland, although it is a common species in the North Atlantic and North Pacific oceans, usually feeding well offshore. It is usually seen after autumn and winter storms.

The first record of the year was of a moribund bird picked up on 24th February in Malton. Then, generally a poor year for this seabird, with only six more individuals being logged from coastal locations. Firstly, one feeding over the River Humber at Spurn Point on 17th September (AAH), then a single flying north passed Flamborough Head on the 23rd September, with the remaining four also flying north there on 6th October.

GREAT BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris* 18,17,8,19,29

Scarce but regular migrant and winter visitor

The small British breeding population is sustained by careful management, and has benefited from recent mild winters. Our winter visitors are augmented by continental immigrants. It breeds across the northern Palearctic, with its main stronghold in central Russia.

A much better year for this species. The year commenced with one remaining at Wintersett Res from 2001. Two were then seen here from 13th January and by the 2nd February, three birds were seen regularly until 8th March, two then remained until 16th March when they were seen to fly off high to the north-east at 18.45. In the autumn one returned from 13th October through to 3rd December, then two were seen, and by 8th December, a third bird was again present until the end of the year.

At Potteric Carr, three birds stayed over into the New Year from 2001, until 24th February, and then a single remained through to 26th March. A single was observed from 15th to 17th September and again on 3rd November, and remarkably during December numbers were back to three here also. Fairburn Ings, likewise, also recorded three birds on various dates from 10th January through to the end of February. Again in the autumn birds returned and two were observed on 18th October. Sightings from other localities in the early year winter period with less specific dates were of one at Farnham GP and one at New Swillington Ings. On the 8th January, one was seen at Otley GP (AJ), and then next day the first sighting was made of one at Blacktoft Sands RSPB. This bird was then seen regularly through the spring and summer months with singles still recorded on days in October, November and December. One was found on the Canal Scrape at Spurn Point on 12th January and remained until next day (PRMa). An individual that was found at Pugney's CP on 15th January was still present up until 26th March, and then one returned to spend December here also. One was seen flying up the Aire Valley at Silsden Res on 8th February (JLT).

Records from Brough Airfield Marsh of lone birds were made on 22nd August (RL), 15th November (BR) and one at Welton Waters on 30th December (IM) was probably this bird. At Firsby Res, one was noted on 25th August. Hornsea Mere observations totalled one on 19th September which was flushed from cover by a passing motor boat (WFC), one on 2nd and 23rd October (RL: EJH: M & JM) and finally one on 19th December (WFC) (these may all refer to one individual). One was at Wykeham Lakes on 11th and 12th October (RHA), and one was seen by a lucky observer in a roadside waterlogged field at Cullingworth on 4th November (DLi). The only record from Tophill Low came on 19th November (DGF).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax* 1,0,1,0,1

Rare visitor; 33 previous records

Breeds throughout southern Europe to north-west Africa, and east to Japan. These populations are dispersive and migratory, with juveniles dispersing north-west July to November. Some free-flying birds kept in British collections.

An adult was seen at Staveley NR between 7th and 10th December (RE: MGM: PTT).

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta* 7,7,23 (36),48,35

Scarce visitor in increasing numbers; 122 previous records

Within Britain, its status has changed dramatically in recent years following a northwards expansion of its range in France, and following post-breeding dispersal from there, the species has established colonies in southern England.

There was only a single winter record, of one at Otley GP on 18th and 20th January, which was also seen at Lindley Wood Res on 19th (SJ: KM). The 17th April saw the first spring movers with two flying east over Fairburn Ings (LS), then two days later one was at Filey Dams (JL *et al*). One was at Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 28th April. No less than 18 were recorded during May with the first at South Gare on 3rd, one was at Bramhope near Leeds on 6th (KAC), then two were at Nosterfield next day before flying off at 11-00 am (PJC). Old Moor Wetlands hosted one bird on 13th (NWA), and then on 15th one flew in off the sea at Spurn Point before heading south-east towards the Lincolnshire coast. A single was present at Fairburn Ings on the 19th, and simultaneously three were at Blacktoft Sands RSPB. Old Moor Wetlands recorded the second of the year on 25th (JHG: DMW), but the next day three drifted west at Swillington Park (PRM) and one was found at Scalby Lodge Pond, whilst another found at Fairburn Ings remained until 28th (RBo: MW). Finally, in May there was a second record for Nosterfield on 27th (SPWo), with one present the same day at Swillington Ings (MB). A single was seen at Sammy's Point, Easington on 2nd June, the same day one was present at Rother Valley CP before flying off later to be recorded over Thrybergh CP, Old Moor Wetlands then finally at Denaby Ings.

Blacktoft Sands RSPB recorded one on 4th June which was known to go to roost that evening, but no more were seen there until 23rd August when one was seen flying over to the east. On 13th June, Filey Dams had a second record for the year (JJ *et al*). One was present in Clubley's field at Spurn Point on 12th August and later flew off south, then from 22nd to 25th August, a single commuted between BLNR and the Humber shore before it also flew off southwards. Again, on 13th August one was at Rother Valley CP. A single bird was present at Sunk Island between 19th and 31st August, and two were recorded flying east here on 24th August. Finally, one late bird was at Blackmoorfoot Res on 1st November (MLD: PBr).

GREAT EGRET *Egretta alba* 1,2,2,2,2

Rare late spring and summer vagrant from the Netherlands and south-east Europe; 18 previous records

This species has now occurred for four years in succession, reflecting its recovery as a breeding species in Europe, where the nearest small breeding population in the Netherlands is slowly increasing.

There was an out of season record of this species at Riccall near York from January 8th to 15th (CSR: DT). A second sighting was one at Leyburn on 19th April (LC: KD).

WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia*

Scarce vagrant, escapes from Harewood confuse status

Once again, the Harewood birds muddy the waters of genuine White Stork occurrences, but the following is a summary of the year's records.

One was at Otley GP on March 18th and 19th, with one also seen at Howden Res on 26th, and probably the same bird flew north at Ringinglow Bog on 2nd April. Timble Ings hosted one bird on April 4th, with one at Elland GP on 11th then another was present for two days at Starr Carr near Scarborough on 23rd and 24th April (DBy: MF *et al*). On 28th April, one was seen at Swanland then next day presumably the same bird was seen flying over Skerne near Driffield (TR). No date was received for two birds seen together at Knotford Nook during April. More sightings then at Otley GP in May were of two on 2nd, one on 6th and two on 21st, with a single also recorded at Ben Rhydding on 4th May. A party of four at Burley-in-Wharfedale on May 8th was remarkable as only three birds from Harewood can fly! Therefore, at least one and possibly all four were wild. A single bird was seen following a tractor at Aldbrough near Boroughbridge on 8th and 9th May (RB: JRM). Other May singles seen occurred at Fairburn Ings on 11th, Tophill Low on 14th (RL: EJH), Lakeside on 16th and Eccup Res on 30th (KR) with two together on 21st at Norwood Edge. A further six lone sightings throughout June were at Menwith Hill and Yeadon Tarn on 1st, Fewston Res and Swinsty Res on 2nd, Aldwarke SF on 5th, and birds at Leeds-Bradford Airport and Kex Gill with no specific dates. Autumnal records were only of one at Silsden Res on 19th September and one at Esholt on 15th November.

Two pairs were known to have been nesting at Harewood House during the year.

BLACK STORK 0,0,0,0,1

Vagrant; 8 previous records

This migratory species breeds from central Iberia through central Europe to Russia and Siberia, with small numbers in Greece and Turkey, wintering in Africa and South Asia.

A juvenile was seen flying over Angler's CP at 1220 on 10th September (MS: MWa).

EURASIAN SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia* 14,10,16,25,28

Scarce migrant and summer visitor

This species breeds in South-East Europe with outposts in Spain and the Netherlands, where its population and has recently increased. A pair nested in the UK in 1998, for the first time in over 300 years.

The first of the year flew east at Blacktoft Sands on 4th April, with the next identified as a first-summer bird at Brough Airfield Marsh on 15th (RL). An adult was at Blacktoft on 25th, and two were at Fairburn Ings on 2nd May (VP). The next day one was back at Brough, remaining to 8th before presumably moving to North Cave Wetlands on 9th (GAD), a first site record. On 10th March, it or another was at Coatham Marsh. A sub-adult was at Blacktoft Sands from 13th to 23rd May with an over-lapping bird at Old Moor Wetlands from 15th to 22nd. This bird also visited Wombwell Ings.

On 22nd May four birds flew over the Outer Head at Flamborough (JMP: PAL), with presumably the same four, plus a further two, passing over Filey Dams that day. One was at BLNR and Spurn on 23rd, remaining in the area until 28th (GG). On 3rd June, one was at Tophill Low (EJH: MGH: RL). At least four summering birds then lingered on the upper Humber at both Brough Airfield Marsh and Blacktoft Sands. At Blacktoft a single was present

from 5th to 9th June, and also on 19th and 26th, with two from 27th to 29th, and up to four birds present in July, with one from 6th-12th, two on 13th, three from 14th-21st and four on 15th, 17th and 29th. Brough recorded a sub-adult on 23rd June, with a second bird present from 27th to 29th. Not to be outshone, five birds turned up at Filey Dams on 1st July, two adults, two immatures and a juvenile, with a sixth bird, an immature, seen over the Country Park on the 25th. Three to four remained at Blacktoft to 18th August, with one to 31st.

BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis* 82,288,18,19,6

Scarce and irregular winter visitor and passage migrant

Breeds across the northern Palearctic, where divided into a number of subspecies, two of which occur in the county. The form *rossicus* is now the more common, occurring in small parties in some winters. It was a poor year, however, with only three records, of which one was not identified to form.

A single Bean Goose *sp.* was at TLNR on 2nd March (MGH).

TAIGA BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis fabalis*

Four were at Wykeham Lakes on 6th November, with two still there on 15th (RHA).

TUNDRA BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis rossicus*

One was at Ladybridge Lake, Nosterfield on 22nd December (PSW *et al*).

EGYPTIAN GOOSE *Alopochen aegyptiacus* 2,3,3,3,8

Rare visitor from feral populations elsewhere in country/local escape: has very occasionally bred

A feral breeder in the UK since the 18th century, with the main concentration in Norfolk, and colonies also in the Netherlands and Belgium. How many individuals accounted for the year's sightings is difficult to ascertain, but there was a marked increase over previous years, with records from seventeen different sites. Although there were 23 reports, theoretically five birds could account for all sightings, but one at Spurn, one at Scarborough, one in South and West Yorkshire with three additional in South Yorkshire in October, and two different coastal birds later in the year suggest eight birds a reasonable estimate.

One at Spurn Point on 14th March was the first there for 17 years. Single birds were reported from the following sites and may refer to two wandering birds: Burton Riggs NR and Spurn Point on 24th April, Scalby Lodge Pond on 27th April, with one at Potteric Carr on 29th, Shaftholme on 9th May, Southfield Res on 11th, Otley GP on 15th, Beal Carrs on 18th, Rother Valley CP on 21st and 27th and back at Southfield Res on 28th.

A first record for Flamborough was on 1st June then at Fairburn Ings on 3rd on 17th and one of doubtful origin at Lumbutts Road, Halifax on 27th June, then at Thrybergh CP on 28th June, with therefore a different individual moving between Burton Riggs NR and Scalby Lodge Pond from 27th June to 3rd July. The South Yorkshire bird was seen at Rother Valley CP on 20th July and Thrybergh CP on 27th. One remained at Fairburn Ings from 6th to 11th August, with presumably the same seen at Doe Park Res on 13th and Wintersett on 14th, and again at Fairburn Ings all October. Three birds at Ulley CP on 25th October must be regarded as different. Two were at Hilston on 18th December and presumed the same two at Hornsea Mere on 19th.

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata* 13,21,27,67,116

Scarce feral breeder/local escape/visitor from populations elsewhere in country

This species is now an established breeder in West Yorkshire, based presumably on escapes from Harewood House, and the number of reports is rapidly increasing.

A drake remaining from 2001 was at Elland GP from 1st January to 9th November. Single drakes were at Peasholm Park, Scarborough on 2nd January, Astley Lake on 5th January, Copgrove Lake on 1st February, Throxenby Mere and Golden Acre Park, Leeds on 10th February, (again at the latter site on 24th April and 6th November) and Hackness Mere on 17th February. Only two were reported from Strid Woods from February to June. A pair was at Eccup Res on 14th April with one there on 14th July, two on 7th and six on 16th October. A pair remained at Fountains Abbey from 14th to 21st April with another pair at Hornsea Mere on 20th. A drake was at Little Studley Meadows on 15th May, a female was at Yeadon Tarn on 18th May, and a drake was seen on four occasions at Shibden between 25th May and 9th June with two between 18th and 18th August.

A female was at Astley Lake on 14th August, an eclipse drake was at Nosterfield NR on 7th September and a drake was seen on three occasions at Shibden between 15th and 21st October. One was at Scarborough Mere from 11th to 29th October with two drakes at Filey Dams on 26th and two seen on four dates at Elland GP from 27th November to 28th December with a single at Worsborough Res on 26th.

The highest counts of the year were 53 at Harewood House on 6th October with 10 on 3rd March, 11 on 14th April and 20 in December and a maximum count of 25 at Strid Woods on 20th. Breeding was proven at Strid Woods where four birds including two young were seen on 12th June with three adult females and two juveniles during July, and also at Harewood Park Lake, where two broods were raised.

AMERICAN WIGEON *Anas americana* 2,0,1,1,2

Rare winter visitor from North America; 13 previous records

Breeds through North America south to the mid-west and winters as far south as Colombia. A regular annual vagrant to the UK.

An eclipse drake was at Scalby Mills from 4th to 12th October (JM: DP *et al*) and then at Scalby Lodge Pond on 16th. A female was at Pugney's CP on 26th and 27th October (TRC: RC), with presumed to be the same bird at Dewsbury SF on 9th December (JHa).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL *Anas carolinensis* 3,0,0,4,2

Rare autumn and winter visitor from North America; 41 previous records

Breeds through North America and winters in southern USA, Central America and the West Indies, but a regular British visitor.

One was at Routh Quarry from 5th to 7th January (JL *et al*) and presumed the same at TLNR on 12th and 20th (JL *et al*) and Hornsea Mere on 16th February (BR *et al*). A drake was at Pugney's CP on 27th and 2nd March (PS) and presumed the same was at Raventhorpe GP on 16th (JRS).

RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina* 8,8,14,7,15

Rare migrant; escapes from captivity and feral birds confuse status

This species breeds in southern Europe and from Germany east to the Black and Caspian seas. Many are kept in wildfowl collections and these probably account for most, if not all the reports. A drake was at Broomfleet Brickponds on 11th March and an un-ringed male was at Blacktoft Sands RSPB from 4th April to 8th May and probably the same was at Welton Water on 16th (GT) and Brough Airfield Marshes on 28th (RL: EJH). A female was at Tophill Low on 3rd June (JB: AL) with a drake on 6th (PA).

A moulting drake was at Thrybergh CP on 14th July, and three birds at Bolton-on-Swale in July were presumed to be the two drakes and a female at Ladybridge Res from 2nd to 31st August (PJC: PVI: PSW *et al*). In August a bird flew south at Atwick on 7th (GCT) and an eclipse drake was at Otley GP on 17th (K & PL). One remained at Old Denaby from 28th to 2nd September with a female at Watton NR on 29th August and presumed the same at PHENR on 5th October. A drake was at Tophill Low on 2nd November, two immatures were at Scalby Mills on 28th and possibly the same two were at East Park, Hull on 31st December.

RING-NECKED DUCK *Aythya collaris* 2,3,6,4,5

Rare but regular vagrant, with pattern of returning wintering individuals

This North American duck is now an annual visitor.

A female was at North Cave Wetlands from 2nd to 31st December (GAD *et al*) with another female at Hornsea Mere on 9th and 10th (RL *et al*), and a drake there on 8th and 9th (BR). A drake was at Staveley NR on 7th December (RE: PTT) and a first-winter drake at East Park, Hull on 31st (RL: EJH *et al*).

A hybrid female Ring-necked Duck x Tufted Duck was reported from Otley GP in January and possibly the same at Hay-a-Park GP on 18th March.

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis* 80,95,53,131,44

Scarce or uncommon coastal migrant and winter visitor, rare inland

The nearest breeding locations of this circumpolar species are in Iceland and north Norway, and birds thought to be of Scandinavian and Russian origin winter regularly in the southern North Sea in small numbers, but this year numbers were down.

It was scarce during the early months with a drake at Tophill Low from 1st to 19th January, one at Flamborough Head on 3rd and a female at Burton Riggs NR from 6th to 13th. Singles were at Filey Brigg on 13th March and Filey CP on 29th and a drake was on the Humber at Spurn Point on 10th and 11th May, the last of the spring. Late birds flew north at Atwick on 6th and 13th July.

The first returning birds were two at Flamborough Head on 26th September. One was at Spurn Point on 3rd October, two flew north at Jackson's Bay Scarborough and perhaps the same two were at Filey Brigg on 6th and singles were at Flamborough Head on 7th, Atwick on 9th and Spurn Point on 14th. One or two were in Filey Bay intermittently from 16th and 19th and at the month end. Four flew north off the Marine Drive, Scarborough on 18th, one was at Spurn Point on 20th whilst an immature was at Flamborough Head from 20th to 22nd, one was off Filey Brigg on 25th and one flew south at Long Nab, Burniston on 27th. Inland a drake was at Wintersett from 25th to 30th October and another at Tophill Low on 10th November. Six were at Flamborough Head on four dates in November and one there on 7th December on which date

three flew north at Filey Brigg with one again north there on 8th and two north of Scarborough Marine Drive on 9th. A female remained at Tophill Low from 15th to the year end and two birds were at Flamborough on 16th.

SURF SCOTER *Melanitta perspicillata* 0,0,0,0,2

Vagrant: 15 previous records

This North American species breeds in Canada and Alaska but is a regular visitor to Britain. with drakes accounting for most sightings.

A male was seen off Flamborough Head on 28th July (BR *et al*) and another flew south on 6th September (MG). This may possibly have been the same bird lingering in the southern North Sea.

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca* 185,200,213,168,366

Uncommon coastal migrant and winter visitor, rare inland

This Holarctic species breeds in northern Scandinavia and is a winter visitor to the east coast. During late summer, small numbers moult along the North Sea coast among Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra* flocks, the earliest arrivals usually adult males, but there is usually a pronounced passage in October and November, and this year good numbers were reported.

In the early part of the year, 24 were reported on eight dates at Flamborough in January when two were also at South Gare and two were at Filey Brigg on 15th. 14 were at Flamborough Head on six dates in February with four at Filey Brigg on 3rd, a female at Barmston on 12th and 17th with a pair there on the 15th. A male was at Barmston on 4th and 12th March with 17 at Flamborough Head during the month with a maximum count of six on 23rd. The last of the spring were singles at Filey Brigg and Saltburn on 30th May.

The first returning birds were three at Atwick and Flamborough Head on 21st July with two at South Gare on 23rd and one was at Redcar on 25th. It was a quiet August with two at Filey Brigg during the month, singles at Redcar on 23rd, Saltburn, Long Nab and Flamborough Head on 26th. There were 11 at Flamborough on six dates in September with one at Spurn Point on 17th, three flew south at Long Nab, Burniston and three north at Filey Brigg on 22nd and four south at Long Nab and three south at Spurn Point on 23rd. 27 were recorded on six dates at Flamborough Head during October with a maximum of 17 on 20th and nine on four dates at Filey with maximum of four on 10th. Singles passed Scarborough on 10th and Long Nab on 26th, with 26 at Spurn Point on 26th. 34 were at Spurn Point on 3rd November with a maximum count at Flamborough Head of 43. Three were at Ulrome on 10th when six were at Filey Brigg with 11 there on 17th and two on 23rd. Four flew north at Scarborough on 17th November and two south on 7th December, another south on 9th and two north on 10th. Two were at Spurn Point and Marske on 7th December with 10 logged at Filey Brigg between 7th and 26th.

EUROPEAN HONEY BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus* 19,19,168,9,14

Rare breeding species and scarce migrant

This long-distance migrant breeds from temperate Europe east to western Asia, usually arriving in mid- to late May, and leaving from mid-August after a short breeding season. There is a small British breeding population, but passage birds can include continental migrants.

A pair once again in the North Yorkshire Forest from 23rd May to 13th July failed to breed

with no eggs being laid, with at least three different birds seen at the site. A female was seen on 31st May at another site and a second pair was reported to be present in the forests. Three males were seen on 1st June, and the last bird at the site was seen on 17th August. A third pair was also reported from elsewhere in the county.

The only spring migrant was one at Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 28th May (SDW).

An adult male radio-tagged at the nest near Inverness on 5th August passed through the county unseen, but spent the night of the 8th September at Picking Gill near Brimham Rocks and was at Snaith near Goole on 10th. It finally arrived in Ghana on 6th October. *(A full account is in the Harrogate & District Naturalists Society Bird Report pp 75-7).* Otherwise, it was a very poor autumn with the only adequately described birds reported included two juveniles at Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 23rd August (MC) and singles at Boulby Cliffs on 12th September (MAB), Nunkeeling on 13th, (WFC) and Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 20th (SDW).

BLACK KITE *Milvusmigrans* 0,0,0,0,1

Rare migrant: 17 previous records

Breeds throughout continental Europe, with good populations in Spain, France and Germany, wintering in Africa and north-west India. Also breeds through Russia to Siberia, with other races present in Africa, India, SE Asia and Australia.

One at Whitestone Point on 10th September (SM: RSS) was the first since 1997.

MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus* 4,8,11,13,9

Rare migrant: has bred

The rarest of Britain's three breeding species of harrier, the population has recovered from just on pair in 1975 to about a dozen today. It breeds from north-west Europe east to Siberia. The European population winters south of the Sahara, usually departing by September and returning in May, and continental birds probably occur on migration. No reports were received from moorland sites this year.

The first of the year was a ringtail at Spurn Point (MFS: BRS) and Easington Long Bank (MFS) on 25th April. A male was observed quartering Cayton Carrs on 11th May (NA). A male was at Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 11th and 17th May and 6th June (PCS: TSk: SDW), and a first-summer female there on 19th and 20th May (JoM). A first-summer female was at Spurn Point on 21st May (MFS: MGF) and an adult female there on 25th (BRS: MFS).

Returning birds were males at Whitgift on 17th July (TW) and Atwick on 22nd (MGH) with the last a juvenile at Spurn Point on 18th August (TMc).

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus* 15,10,2,5,2

Rare migrant and winter visitor

This species breeds in the arctic and subarctic zones from Scandinavia eastwards through Asia and North America, and winters in small numbers in Britain. Occasional birds occur at regular moorland haunts in the northern moors.

A poor year with only two records: one was in Sleddale from 9th to 11th November (ECP *et al*) and one was at Scaling Dam Res on 27th December (JLS).

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus* 92,80,167,82,84

Uncommon but regular passage migrant in increasing numbers

The north-west European population of this widely distributed species is long-distant migrants, wintering in West Africa. Ringing recoveries would suggest that Scandinavian as well as Scottish birds pass through the county. With the exception of 2000, numbers have been remarkably consistent in recent years.

The majority of records occur in the western part of the county, where closely watched nature reserves and reservoirs on the fringes of the Pennines provide many of the records. There is no doubt some double-counting as birds moving north through the centre of the country linger to take the opportunity to refuel at more than one location. Blacktoft Sands also attracts a number of birds.

Osprey Distribution 2002

There was a protracted spring passage with eight in March, 14 in April, 17 in May and five in June. All sightings this year were of single birds. The first was at Heely near Sheffield and later Midhope on the early date of 16th March, with others at Walshaw Dene on 18th, Shelley on 21st, Esholt on 22nd, Sprotborough Flash on 23rd, Aldwarke SF on 26th, Deer Hill on 30th, and Colsterdale and Scarborough on 31st. In April sightings were at Staveley NR and Old Moor Wetlands on 1st, Skerne and Fairburn Ings on 3rd and Timble Ings on 7th. There was a short gap then until Thornton Moor Res and Yeadon Tarn on 14th, Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 17th, Easington on 18th, Brough Airfield Marsh on 19th and 21st, Beverley on 20th, Wansford on 23rd and Lower Hopton on 27th. One was seen at both Bellflask Quarries and High Batts NR on 2nd May, when one was also at Luddenden Dene, with further singles at Nidd Gorge and Potteric Carrs on 3rd, at Barden from 3rd to 5th, Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 4th, Addingham on 5th, Ramsgill on 6th, Bradley Mills and Nicholson's Lagoon on 7th, over Astley Lake on 13th, Silsden Res on 15th, Filey Dams on 16th, Fairburn Ings and Southfield Res on 19th, Rother Valley CP and Redmires Res on 20th, Fairburn Ings on 27th and Potteric Carr on 27th and 28th. There were five June records, from Swinsty Res on 2nd, Eccup Res on 4th and 5th, Denaby Ings on 16th, Nosterfield NR on 19th and Fairburn Ings on 24th.

At least four birds were seen in July: one at Scaling Dam on 2nd and 3rd, another at Chelker Res on 4th, singles at Gouthwaite Res and Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 8th and again at Scaling Dam on 27th.

Return passage began on 17th August at Blackmoorfoot Res and Langsett Res, Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 18th, Barden on 19th and 24th when also at Flamborough Head, Farnham GP on 26th, High Green on 30th and Denaby Ings on 31st. In September birds were reported from Staveley NR on 1st, Wansford and Denaby Ings on 2nd, Kilnsea on 3rd, Wykeham Lakes on 4th, Hornsea Mere, Midhope and Thruscross Res on 7th, Howden Res on 8th, Farnley Res, Spurn Point (only record of the year), Aldbrough and Filey CP on 10th, two at Scalby and one at Leeshaw Res on 14th and one at Kiplingcotes on 15th. Stragglers passed through at Hoodstorth on 30th, Leighton Res on 11th October and a very late bird was at Bempton on 23rd November.

RED-FOOTED FALCON *Falco vespertinus* 0,1,1,1,1

Rare migrant; 59 previous records

This species breeds intermittently from the wooded steppes of Eastern Europe east to the Baikal region and winters in South-West Africa. Although its European population is declining, it continues to make an almost annual appearance in the county.

A female was seen at North Duffield Carrs on 19th May (MT).

SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana* 3,3,8,2,4

Rare breeding summer visitor and migrant

This migratory species breeds from Spain eastwards through Europe to central Siberia, with its main breeding strongholds in Eastern Europe and Russia. It is a sporadic breeder in Western Europe and in the county,

An adult was at Blacktoft Sands on 20th August (IH) with a juvenile also there on 13th September (SDW *et al*). A well watched bird was much appreciated at Old Moor Wetlands from 23rd to 26th August and from 1st to 21st September. One was at Coatham Marsh on 8th September (JBD *et al*).

CORN CRAKE *Crex crex* 7,1,4,3,5

Rare breeding summer visitor and migrant

There has been a long-term decline in the British breeding population, which is now almost entirely confined to north-west Scotland. Spring migrants have sometimes remained and bred in suitable habitat within the county. Migrants, presumably of Scandinavian origin, are occasionally found on the coast.

One was heard singing in a barley field at Flamborough Head on 2nd and 12th June, and seen on 3rd (AMA *et al*). A single bird was heard singing in suitable breeding habitat at Cayton Carrs from 17th to 28th June (DBy *et al*). In the autumn a single bird was flushed from the Point Dunes at Spurn on 10th September (GT *et al*). One was found dead under wires at Brompton on 13th September (*per* NWA).

A bird was heard singing from a hay meadow in the Yorkshire Dales NP between 8th and 28th June (IC *et al*), and a management plan to defer mowing put into place. When some mowing commenced on 1st August the farmer saw an adult bird he believed to be this species, and two chicks, and mowing was halted. This record has to be regarded as an unconfirmed breeding report.

COMMON CRANE *Grus grus* 1,15,11,9,43

Scarce migrant

This species breeds in northern Europe, wintering in Spain and north-west Africa, and migrates north relatively early, with many arrivals in March. There is a small breeding population in Norfolk, although the wandering birds that appear to be lingering for longer periods in the county are more probably of continental origin.

Following a period of easterly winds in mid March a nationwide influx occurred, resulting in up to 43 birds being recorded for the year, although some records refer to the same wandering individuals.

One at Saltburn on 10th March was the first, followed by a single at Hyles Moor Farm from 16th to 17th March, which had been seen previously at Bolton-by Bowland. Two flew over Elland GP on 16th, while on the 17th a single that was first seen at Old Moor in the morning flew over Horbury Wyke and Dewsbury SF later in the day. This could also have been the same bird that flew over Lindley Moor, Huddersfield on the 19th. Two were at Sherburn Carrs from 17th to 18th March and five flew over Gainsborough on 17th. Two were at Bointon on 17th, and the largest flock of the year occurred at BLNR and Spurn on 19th when six adults and one immature flew south. In April singles were seen at Flamborough on 2nd and 17th, Potteric Carr on 11th and Hexthorpe near Doncaster on 12th. In May single birds were sighted at Thorne Moors on 21st, Flamborough on 23rd and Easington Long Bank on 25th.

Two pairs of adult birds appeared to spend the summer in North Yorkshire. One pair was seen at Starr Carrs, Seamer, Muston and Folkton Carrs between 16th June and 17th July, and at Wykeham Carr from 15th to 28th August. Presumably a different pair was at Nosterfield NR on 23rd July and in the Wiske Valley from 13th July to 1st November. One was at Southfield Res on 5th July and one at Blacktoft Sands RSPB from 15th to 17th August when it flew north, also being seen at Faxfleet and Whitton. Two were at Thorne Moors on 15th September. Two, possibly the North Yorkshire birds, flew south at Spurn Point on 6th November.

STONE-CURLEW *Burhinus oedicnemus* 0,2,0,0,2

Rare visitor; 33 records since became extinct as a breeding species in 1930s

This crepuscular species breeds from Western Europe east to SE Asia. In the UK, there are increasing breeding populations in East Anglia and southern England and these birds winter in the Mediterranean and Africa, usually returning in March and April. A long term decline in the British population of this summer visitor in the early part of the 20th century brought about the loss of this species as a breeding bird in Yorkshire in the 1930's.

Since 1960 there have only been twenty four records so three in one year is unprecedented. The first, at BLNR on the 16th March, was the earliest Yorkshire record by a month. Another bird was also seen here two months later on 14th May (DJB *et al*). One on a more typical date was found at Starr Carrs, Scarborough on 21st April (DBy *et al*).

EURASIAN DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus* 137,26,31,38,43

Scarce passage migrant, more frequent in spring; has very occasionally bred

This species is a regular passage migrant, usually during May, en route to breeding grounds in Scotland and Scandinavia. Favoured sites include high ground in the Pennines and pea-fields in the east of the county.

A good year, with fifteen records of 43 birds, including a flock of thirteen. The majority

were in spring. Two were found at North Newbald on 13th April, with three on 14th, one remaining to 4th May (GCA: DH: IM: GT). On 20th April a male was in fields at Boulby, (IJF: JR: RCT *et al*). On 2nd May three were at Ringinglow Bog (JSh), also a male and two females were at Blackmoorfoot Res at 19.00 leaving NW at 19.15 (DHP *et al*). The largest flock of the year was at Ingleborough with 12 on 3rd increasing to 13 on 4th and 5th. Seven were at Patrington and Welwick from 5th to 10th May (AAH: MJP *et al*). At Aldbrough four were in Pea fields at West Carlton from 6th to 9th May (AFJ), two males and a female were at Flamborough Head from 17th to 20th May (J & TGD *et al*) and one at Filey Tip on 20th (T & TGD *et al*).
In the autumn singles were at Flamborough Head on 10th September (JMP: MJPe) and at Crook Ness (MF) and Boulby on the same date (DP: ECP). A juvenile was found at Skipsea on 8th October and a late juvenile frequented the Golden Plover flock at Old Moor Wetlands from 2nd to 5th November (SCR: DMW *et al*).

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii* 18,9,9,14,9

Scarce passage migrant, mostly in spring; 258 previous records (285 birds)

This species breeds from Scotland eastward through Russia and small numbers each year stop over on passage at favoured inland locations.

The first occurred at Beal Carrs on 7th May staying until 8th. Old Moor Wetlands had the next on the 12th (DMW) with another on 21st (BE). Singles were seen at Scalby Lodge Pond on 19th (JHe), at Watton NR (MGH) and Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 20th May. In June one was at North Cave Wetlands from 2nd to 3rd (GAD *et al*), with two at Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 3rd (SDW).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER *Calidris fuscicollis* 1,0,1,1,1

Rare migrant; 21 previous records

This Nearctic wader breeds in northern Canada and migrates along the eastern U.S. seaboard to winter in South America.

A single bird was seen at Filey CP at the Old Tip for ten minutes on 15th August before it was flushed by a dog walker and not relocated. The first record for Filey (TGD).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos* 1,3,6,10,7

Scarce migrant; 112 previous records (119 birds)

This species is the commonest of the Nearctic species occurring in the county, and it breeds in the tundra of both North America and Siberia, wintering in South America.

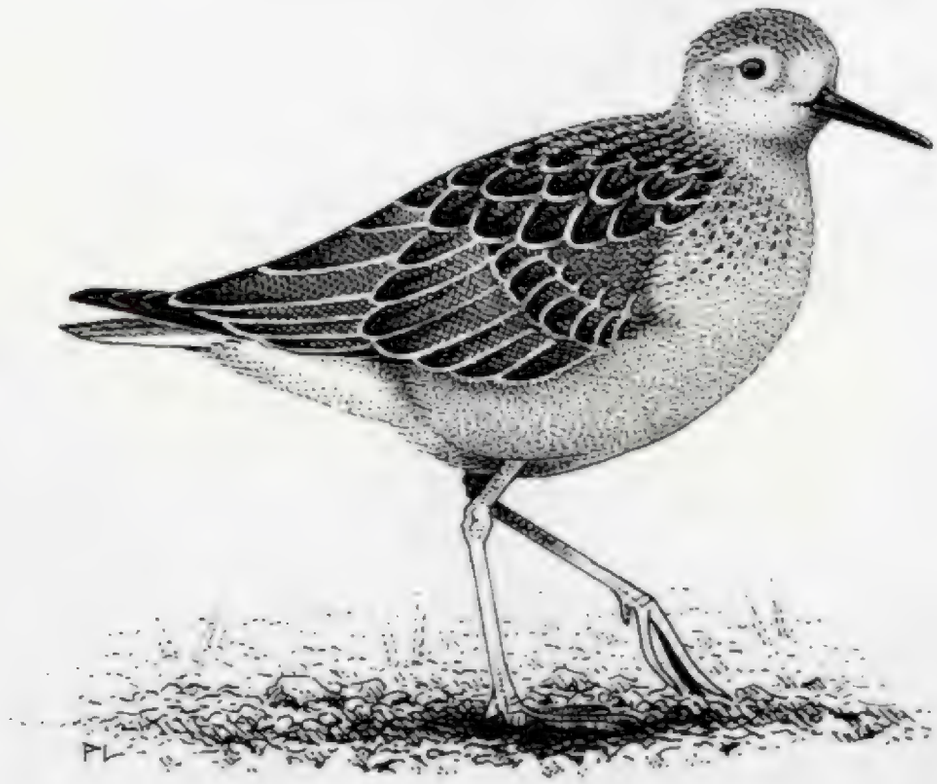
The first of the year was an unusual spring migrant at Scalby Lodge Pond on 26th and 27th April (MF: JHe). An adult was at North Cave Wetlands on 9th July (JC: GAD), followed by a single bird at Old Moor Wetlands from 30th to 31st July (DL: DMW: JW *et al*). On 10th September one dropped into Filey Dams for a couple of hours (REH *et al*), with possibly the same one seen the next day at Scalby Lodge Pond (MF), and one at Nosterfield NR on 21st and again from 25th to 29th September (SPWo *et al*). A juvenile at Bank Island Wheldrake from 26th September to 3rd October was a bonus for birders visiting the site to see the Buff Breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* (PP: RSS *et al*).

BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER *Limicola falcinellus* 0,0,1,0,1

Rare migrant; 13 previous records (14 birds)

The European race breeds in boreal forest bogs of north Norway, Sweden and Finland and Arctic Russia, migrating SE to winter in the Persian Gulf, W India and Sri Lanka, and small numbers in E Africa. It is a late spring migrant to the UK with dispersing juveniles from July.

An adult was found feeding with a flock of Dunlin *Calidris alpina* at Nosterfield NR on 15th May. Although mostly distant, the bird was seen until dusk, giving many birders a chance to see it (KED: SPWo *et al*).



BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER *Tryngites subruficollis* 1,0,2,0,1

Vagrant; 15 previous records (13 birds)

Breeds in Alaska and north-west Canada, wintering in South America. A scarce visitor to the UK in increasing numbers, and consequently removed from the list of species requiring a description by BBRC. Four county records in the last five years reflect this change in status.

A well watched bird was present at Bank Island, Wheldrake from 25th September to 5th October. During its stay it was caught and ringed, and aged as an adult female (DS *et al*). *Presumably the same bird was reported from Rother Valley CP on 20th, but that record has not yet been submitted.*

MARSH SANDPIPER *Tringa stagnatilis* 0,3,0,1,1

Vagrant; 5 previous records

Occasionally breeds in Finland and Baltic countries east to NE China, wintering through sub-Saharan Africa, Indian subcontinent east to Australia. First recorded in Yorkshire in 1985, recent years have seen a sudden change in status.

Incredibly, after having had a record of three birds in 1999, New Swillington Ings had another when an adult was found at Leventhorpe Hall Pond on 8th June (PRM *et al*). The bird stayed for another day, but was relocated at Blacktoft Sands on 12th July remaining until 17th (VP *et al*). A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding 11: 2 pp 55-57.*

TEREK SANDPIPER *Xenus cinereus* 0,0,0,0,1

Vagrant; 2 previous records

The European population is restricted to isolated populations in eastern Europe, west to Siberia. Winters coastally from South Africa east to Australia.

One was found in front of the hide at BLNR on 1st June and was watched for twenty minutes before it flew off towards the Humber (AAH *et al*). It was relocated on the evening tide. This was the first record for the Spurn area and only the third for the County, the last being in 1989 at Blackmoorfoot Res. A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding 11: 2 pp 50-51.*

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus* 2,1,4,3,2

Rare passage migrant, mainly in autumn

The Western Palearctic population of this delicate wader extends from northern Scotland eastwards through Scandinavia and northern Russia and migrates overland to winter in the Arabian Sea. It has declined as a British breeder and is likely now to remain a rare visitor to the county, with the majority of records from the east coast in autumn.

There were just two records for the year, an adult female at Blacktoft Sands on 19th June (IH: PCS: SDW) and a single bird at Hornsea Mere from 14th to 15th August (RL: EJH: BR *et al*).

GREY PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius* 13,8,4,6,20

Rare or scarce coastal passage migrant and winter visitor; rare inland

This species has a noticeably different distribution to the preceding one, breeding in North America east through Iceland, Spitzbergen and Novaya Zembla, but not in northern Eurasia. Its migration routes are wholly oceanic, wintering at sea off West Africa and Chile. It is most likely to occur in our county after westerly or north-westerly gales, though rarely does more than one occur at same time.

A good year for this species with nineteen records of twenty birds received including five found inland. One on the sea at Flamborough on 23rd March was the first (BR) with singles flying north on 21st August (PAL), 1st September (PAL: IM: JMc: RST *et al*), 26th October (PAL: IM) and 3rd November (BR: IM).

On 2nd August an adult moulting out of summer plumage was at Ladybridge Lake, Nosterfield NR (RKB: RTP: SPWo *et al*) with an adult in November from 1st to 3rd and again on the 5th. Singles were also recorded at Filey on 25th August (JMT *et al*), 21st October (PC *et al*) and two on 27th October (CCT: PLM). One flew north at Atwick on 22nd September (RL: EJH), one north at Spurn 21st October (PS) and another north on 9th November (AAH). Scarborough Harbour held one bird from 14th to 16th October (AJ), with one at Long Nab on 28th October (NWA: CB) and one in the bay on 14th November (AJ). Inland one was on the river at Sprotborough Flash 29th to 31st October, a juvenile was at Fewston and Swinsty Reservoirs on 3rd November (AJ *et al*), and one at Edderthorpe Flash on 23rd November was the latest record for the year (GJS).

POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus*

An inland record of one at Blacktoft Sands on 27th October (SDW) has been accepted.

LONG-TAILED SKUA *Stercorarius longicaudus* 50,73,31,117,88

Scarce coastal migrant mainly in autumn; rare inland

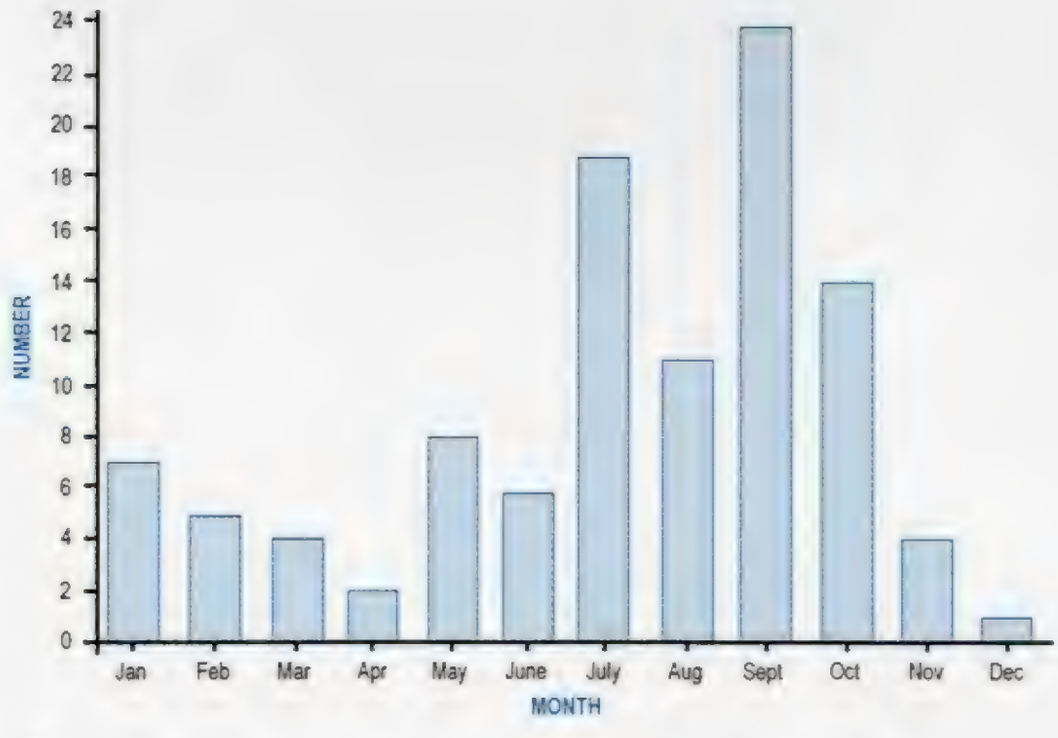
This circumpolar species is the scarcest of the skuas occurring in the county, although increased observer awareness has led to an increase in records. Numbers fluctuate according to the lemming cycle and appropriate weather conditions.

Over eighty records were received for the year, with all reports coming from coastal locations, two thirds of which were in September, the highest daily count being twelve.

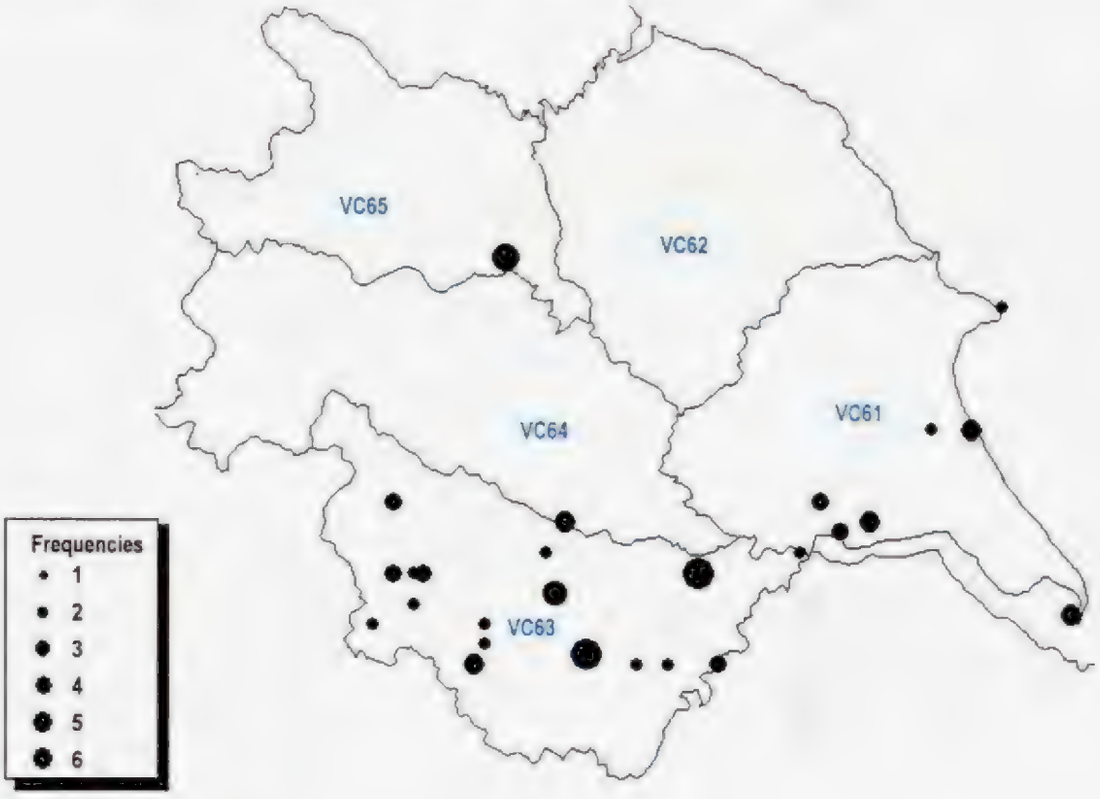
Spurn had the only spring record when two flew east out to sea on 11th May. A juvenile flew north at Flamborough on 21st July, an adult north on 19th August, two juveniles on 27th and one on 29th August. One flew south at Filey Brigg on 25th August.

In September Flamborough had two on 1st followed by singles on 13th, 14th, 17th, five on 18th, two 19th, one 20th and 21st. An adult and eleven juveniles flew north on 23rd, and an adult and juvenile on 26th. Single juveniles flew south past the Marine Drive, Scarborough on 10th and Long Nab on 13th and 21st. At Filey a juvenile was on the Brigg on 15th and two on 18th, whilst five juveniles flew south on 22nd. Two juveniles flew south at Spurn on 9th, one on 22nd, with five on 23rd. Singles were recorded at Grimston on 21st and 22nd, the latter seen feeding on a goose carcass. On 22nd five were at Redcar, with five also at Long Nab on 22nd and 23rd, one south at Filey Brigg and one at Ulrome, both on 23rd. In October singles were seen at Filey on 5th, Long Nab on 6th, and at Flamborough on 8th, 20th and 21st, with nine on 6th. Two at Long Nab on 27th were followed by one on 28th, with one past the Marine Drive, Scarborough on 30th the last for the year.

Numbers of Yellow-legged Gulls 2002



Yellow-legged Gull Distribution 2002



SABINE'S GULL *Larus sabini* 17,19,19,20,15

Scarce autumn coastal migrant, very rare in winter

This species breeds from Greenland east to eastern Siberia and the western populations winter in the Atlantic. It typically occurs from late August to October, with numbers swelled by severe gales. Adults tend to move before juveniles.

The first of the year's fifteen records was at Filey when a bird flew north along North Cliffs on 12th August (J & TGD). Three adults flew north at Flamborough on 27th August (AMA: AG: DM *et al*), a juvenile flew south on 1st September (BR: RSt *et al*), and single adults flew north on 16th (PAL: IM) and 18th September (BR: RSt: DT). Two adults flew north at Long Nab, Scarborough on 28th August (SW), and single juveniles were at Atwick on 22nd (MGH) and 26th September (RL: EJH). In October adults flew north at Scarborough (RHA) and Flamborough (PAL: BR) on 6th, with first winters flying north at Flamborough on 8th and 27th (PAL).

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus argentatus michahellis* 134,125,106,107,115

Uncommon summer visitor and migrant

A similar number of records to the previous year were received, with birds being recorded in every month, although most reports were from July and September and as can be seen from the map, mainly from VC63. No reports were received from VC 62. Most records related to adult birds, and unless stated all records refer to adults.

In VC 61 Spurn welcomed in the New Year with one on 1st and again on 24th January. A first-winter was at Leven Tip on 27th January and at Hornsea Mere on 10th February. At Flamborough Head a second-summer flew south on 16th March and another was at North Cave Wetlands on 6th May. An adult frequented the shore by the Crown at Spurn for 27th June to

17th November, with a third-summer at Welton Water on 6th July and a fourth-winter at Brough Haven on 14th September. Singles were also seen at North Cave Wetlands from 4th to 5th October, Brough Haven on 25th and Hornsea Mere on 29th October.

In VC 63 January records included one at Langsett Res on 1st and one at Blackmoorfoot Res on 16th with two at Southfield Res on 22nd. On 26th March one was at Ringstone Edge Res, a second-summer at New Swillington Ings on 3rd and 5th April and an adult there on 11th, 12th and 17th April with two second-summers on 17th May and an adult and a second-summer from 26th to 28th May. A first-year bird was at Southfield Res on 3rd May and a second–summer bird was again present at Swillington on 25th June. A first-year bird was seen at Old Moor Wetlands on 30th April, with first and second-year birds present on 20th May, and a second-summer on 27th June. Between 29th June and 14th July five were present at Old Moor Wetlands including a first-summer, two second-summers and two third-summers. Also in July a first-summer was at Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 17th, an adult was seen from 18th to 19th while at Lakeside four birds were reported, two second-years, a third-year and a fourth-year were present on 17th, the third year also being seen on the 20th. On 25th one was at Lindley Moor Res and at Thorne Moors a second-summer was recorded on 28th.

A second summer at Lakeside on 2nd August was joined by an adult on 3rd, three at Southfield Res on 16th, one at Barnside Moor on 25th and two at Wintersett Res on 26th. An adult was at Redmires Res from 26th August to 2nd September, with three adults there on 2th and 15th September, two present on 10th – 12th. Three were at Southfield Res on 14th September, with twelve, the year's highest total, on 16th. Singles were recorded at Ringstone Edge Res on 28th, Wintersett Res on 29th and a third-year on 29th at Old Moor Wetlands.

In October a first-year was at New Swillington Ings on 1st, and adult was at Redmires Res on 1st, 6th, 12th and 18th, two adults were at Southfield Res on 4th, two adults and a first-year at Wintersett Res on 12th, one at Sprotborough Flash on 17th and two adults at Langsett Res on 27th. Finally, singles were at Southfield Res on 3rd November, Sheffield University on 4th, Royd Moor Res on 9th, Langsett Res on 10th, Wintersett Res on 12th November, Lakeside on 2nd December and at Langsett Res on 28th.

In VC 64 one at Blackley Tip on 31st January was the first for the year. Thornton Moor Res had the next when one was seen on 14th July, with one on 26th July at Gouthwaite Res and two there on 27th. In August three were at Blackley Tip on 29th with two on 2nd September and singles at Upper Denby on 12th and Thornton Moor Res on 28th September.

All the records for VC 65 came from Nosterfield NR and singles were observed on the following dates: 1st and 24th February, 2nd to 3rd March, 24th August, 25th to 28th September and 18th October.

CASPIAN GULL *Larus argentatus cachinnans* 0,0,0,2,3

Vagrant

After last year's first records for the county, three birds were found this year, probably reflecting an increase in observer awareness. The winter period between October to March is beginning to emerge as the peak time when this bird is likely to appear. On 5th October an adult was found at Scalby Mills (DP) and a second-winter was found in the gull roost at Anglers CP on 9th November (SD: PM *et al*). A fourth-winter was on the sea north of Filey Brigg on 8th December (PLM: JS: CCT: JMT *et al*).

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides* 53,45,100,79,112

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

A winter visitor from Greenland.

In VC 61 the first bird of the year was at Welton on 27th January, followed by an adult at Spurn and BLNR on the 28th and one at Leven Tip from 29th to 31st January. In February singles were seen at Filey Dams on the 9th, Flamborough on 16th, Welton 17th to 21st and an adult at Spurn on the 18th. March was the peak month with nineteen records. An adult flew north at Withernsea on the 2nd, with singles at Flamborough on 8th, 10th, 18th and 24th. Spurn recorded individuals on 10th, 15th, 17th, 21st and an adult on the 24th. Aldbrough had one on 10th and a bird frequented Leven Tip on 13th, Hornsea Mere on 14th and Skipsea and Atwick on the 15th. Other March records were one at Barmston on 20th, Filey Dams on 21st, Hornsea Mere on 28th, with an adult there on 30th, and one at Melton Foreshore on 31st. Single birds were seen in April at Welton on 2nd and 23rd Spurn Point on 11th and 28th and East Park Hull on 21st. The only May record was at Filey Bay on the 11th.

There were only two records for the second half of the year: one on 27th October at Filey Brigg and an adult at Spurn Point on the 8th November.

In VC 62 a first-winter was at Burton Riggs NR between 1st and 6th January, an adult was at Saltburn on 13th, and singles were off the Marine Drive Scarborough on 17th, in the harbour at Scarborough on 23rd and at Cayton Bay on 27th. In February an adult was at Scalby Mills on 6th, and a first-winter in the harbour on 19th. In March a first-winter was in Scarborough North Bay on 5th and a second-winter at Scalby Mills on 23rd. April saw a second summer at Burton Riggs NR on 16th and the only other record for the year was one at Long Nab Burniston on 27th October.

There were over sixty records from VC 63 which feasibly could all relate to just six or seven wandering individuals. Blackmoorfoot Res had one from 2nd to 4th January, a third-winter from 6th to 7th and 11th to 12th which was also seen on the 6th at Honley Tip. An adult was recorded at Blackmoorfoot on 15th January and one on 3rd February which was presumably the same bird seen a month earlier. Wintersett had singles from 3rd to 6th January, 2nd to 31st March, and adults on 22nd January, 16th and 26th March. Two were reported from Ardsley Res on 5th January and again on 5th February, with one on 23rd February. A first-winter was at Broomhead Res briefly on 13th and again on 26th-27th, also being noted at Langsett on 26th, and again at Broomhead on 29th. Two were at Southfield Res on 14th January, one from 20th to 24th January, two on 1st February one on 22nd. Three different individuals were seen from 5th to 23rd March. New Swillington Ings proved to be the best location with at least six different individuals including five in the roost together. A bird flying west on 5th January was the first, with it or another seen on various dates between 11th and 24th. An adult was also seen on the 21st, with one seen on 25th, 29th and 31st March with an adult on 26th. Three appeared on 1st April and again from 3rd to 6th, two from 7th to 10th with five on 11th and 12th reducing to three on 15th. One remained from 16th to 18th. An adult was also on 2nd, 6th and 18th April. One on 18th and another on 19th and 20th December were the only records for the second half of the year. Three birds were reported from Fairburn Ings in January, two in February, one in March, and two in April, the last being on 21st. Other records were three birds including an adult at Old Moor Wetlands between 2nd and 17th March, one at Rother Valley CP on 3rd March, one at Thorne on 31st March, one at Eccup on 11th April and an adult at Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 18th April.

There were just two records from VC 65. One was regularly seen at Nosterfield NR from 5th February to 26th March, with two on 26th Feb and 14th March.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus* 88,74,113,86,88

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

This species breeds in Iceland and on islands east to the Russian coast, and is usually more common than the smaller Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*, particularly on the coast. However, this has not been the case in recent years, and there were only four records of more than one bird and only five records of adult birds. The highest total was an exceptional four at New Swillington Ings. All records relate to birds on first- or second-winter plumage unless otherwise stated.

In VC 61 the year started with one at Filey on the 1st, with further sightings on 9th, 10th and 20th January. One flew north on 11th May. Singles were recorded at Flamborough Head on 12th and 13th January, 2nd February, two on 9th, and singles on 10th, 17th and 23rd February, 2nd and 11th March. A probable fourth-winter bird flew south at Spurn Point on 20th January, flying north again on the 28th. One flew north-east at Spurn on 14th April. From 29th January until 20th March, one was seen regularly at Leven Tip, Hornsea Mere and Atwick Gap, being accompanied at Leven Tip by an adult on 24th February. Single birds were also noted at Welton on 27th January, 17th and 21st February, Melton Foreshore on 1st and 15th March and at Brough Haven, one on 30th May was the latest record for the county.
In the second half of the year one was seen at Filey Brigg and Flamborough Head on 9th December.

In the first half of the year in VC 62 two were seen at Burton Riggs NR on 1st January, with one present on 2nd, 3rd and 8th, with one at Seamer Road Mere on 6th and 7th. One was seen from 11th to 25th January and again on 24th February at South Gare. Later in the year singles were at Scalby Mills on 11th and at South Gare on 17th November, and one spent two days at Whitby from 28th to 29th December.

In VC 63 the bird seen at Blackmoorfoot Res in 2001 lingered on until 5th January. A different bird was recorded from 13th to 31st January, being joined by another on 26th, staying throughout February, during which time it sometimes fed on Honley Wood Tip. A second bird was also noted on 24th February. A probable first-winter seen at Meltham on 1st January was presumable the Blackmoorfoot bird. Southfield Res recorded single birds from 1st to 3rd January, a second bird from 2nd to 3rd and 20th January, and a third individual on 2nd and between 14th and 24th February and again on 5th March. In January Wintersett Res had one on the 5th, a different bird on 6th, with a third individual seen intermittently between 4th February and 16th March. New Swillington Ings had an exceptional January with at least two seen regularly on most dates with a site best of four on 24th. One was recorded from 5th to 8th, joined by a second on 12th, increasing to three on 13th. Two were then seen regularly to 23rd, with four on 24th three on 26th, two on 27th and one to 2nd February. In March singles were noted on 10th and 31st. Singles were also at Sprotborough Flash on 1st and 9th January, Old Moor Wetlands on 6th January, Aldwarke SF on 7th January, Ardsley Res on 11th and 15th, with a different bird there on 12th and Langsett Res on 26th January. An adult flew east at Blacktoft Sands RSPB on 2nd March, with another seen regularly there between 24th March and 5th May, whilst two were at Thorne Moors on 29th March with one seen again on 31st.

Returning birds did not appear until 17th December with one at New Swillington Ings, followed by an adult on Christmas Day. An adult was also at Blackmoorfoot Res on 27th and

28th December. A Glaucous Gull x Herring Gull hybrid was at Wintersett Res on 16th November. In VC 64 and VC 65 Bar Lane Quarry recorded individuals on the 9th and 17th to 21st January, one or two from 12th to 14th March and one on 31st March. At Fairburn Ings one was seen between 1st and 9th January, an adult on 18th, one occasionally throughout February, one on 13th March and an adult on 18th April. Nosterfield NR recorded singles on 1st and 19th January, 15th to 16th February and 8th March, with one at Farnham GP on 13th March. One at Fairburn on 23rd November was the first returning bird, followed by an adult at Bar Lane Quarry on 3rd and 4th December and one at Farnham GP on 26th December.

ROSS'S GULL *Rhodostethia rosea* 0,0,0,0,2

Vagrant; 12 previous records

Breeds in the tundra of NE Siberia, where locally common, and in the Hudson Bay area of Canada, where rare. Wintering grounds are not known, but thought to be in the north Pacific. The UK averages two records a year, usually occurring in winter but sometimes in summer. Following an influx of eight birds into Britain, an adult was located between Scarborough Harbour and Scalby Mills on 16th March, remaining in the area until the 4th April (DBy *et al*). This was the first long stayer in the county for nearly twenty years. A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding II: 1 pp 13-14.*

Amazingly a second bird was found at Blacktoft Sands RSPB amongst a flock of Black-headed Gulls *Larus ridibundus* on 31st March (LP: PCS: SDW *et al*).

ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii* 52,66,111,40,36

Scarce coastal migrant, most frequent in late summer/autumn

The first confirmed breeding took place this year when a pair bred in the Common Tern colony in the ore terminal at Bran Sands, rearing two young (CB). The young birds were ringed.

The only bird in May was recorded inland on 21st at Old Moor Wetlands, where a superb adult was seen to leave high to the south-east at 0920 after a brief stay (BE). In June, two adults flew north at Flamborough on 18th and three were at South Gare on 21st.

Return passage was noted in July, with four adults south at Cowbar on 11th, followed by adults noted north off Flamborough, where there was one on 14th and two on 16th, 17th and 19th. Singles then flew south at Spurn Point on 26th and 29th. In August one flew north at Flamborough Head on 2nd, two adults were at Filey Brigg on 24th and one flew north at Spurn Point on 26th. September saw a slight increase in coastal passage, with one south at Spurn on 6th, four adults lingering at South Gare between 7th and 10th, two adults with the first juvenile of the year south at Flamborough Head on 8th, with an adult at Filey the same day, and finally two north at Spurn on 23rd.

WHITE-WINGED (BLACK) TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus* 4(2),6,3,2,2(1)

Rare migrant; 54 previous records (51 birds)

A visitor to the county for the fifth year in succession, this species is no longer a national rarity. Its breeding range extends from Poland eastwards to China, with western populations wintering in Africa, and a spring arrival after south-easterly winds is not unexpected.

An adult at Coatham Marsh on 9th May (NAP *et al*) was considered by BBRC to be the same bird as one seen the next day at Bolton-on-Swale GP (ND).

LITTLE AUK *Alle alle* 1160,825,18,13725,282

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor, in greatly varying numbers

This species breeds principally in Svalbard and north-west Greenland, wintering in the north Atlantic and the northern sector of the North Sea. After the previous year's high counts, this one was relatively quiet, with no evidence of wintering birds in the first winter period.

There were no records until the gale-force northerlies of 22nd Sept pushed one south off Filey Brigg, and three were recorded off Flamborough Head the next day. There was a small passage at the end of October with nine noted off Long Nab, Burniston between 28th and 31st, one off Flamborough on 28th, two on 29th and 30 on 30th, when two were off Barmston. In November a single passed Flamborough on 3rd and 24 on 9th, when one flew north at Spurn and another two passed Flamborough on 17th. So far this month only three birds had been noted at Filey, but on 21st eleven birds were noted the forerunners to a little flurry of passage. 29 flew south at Filey on 23rd, and a further two were in the bay, with 76 recorded south at Flamborough Head, three south at Hornsea and six at Spurn on 23rd. On 24th one flew north at Spurn and two were recorded at Flamborough, with two off the end of Filey Brigg on 25th.

38 were recorded off Flamborough Head on seven dates in December, with four birds also reported from Filey and eight at Hornsea both on 8th, five north at Scarborough and six north at Skipsea on 9th, five at Filey Brigg on 11th and one there on 26th, one on the sea at Scarborough on 15th, with one dead there the next day, and finally two at South Gare on 29th.

ALPINE SWIFT *Tachymarptis melba* 5,2,0,1,3

Rare migrant from Europe; 60 previous records

Breeds discontinuously from North-west Africa east to North Pakistan, and can turn up from very early in spring through summer to late autumn.

Three records for the year was a good return, with one typically early record and one the second latest ever. The first was seen over Cottingham, near Hull, on 24th March (SPD), during a period of southerly winds that brought a number of Mediterranean species to the south coast of England. The next was one lingered over Filey CP on 18th April from 1850 hrs. until dusk (SC: CCT *et al*). The final record was one flying west over Fairburn Ings on 5th October (JG).

EUROPEAN BEE-EATER *Merops apiaster* 4,11,0,3,16

Scarce vagrant from southern Europe; 68 previous records (114 birds)

This Mediterranean species breeds throughout southern Europe, and is now a regular overshooting spring visitor. 2002 was an exceptional year nationally for the species, with successful breeding taking place in County Durham, but events that have subsequently unfolded show that it was also an eventful year for the county.

The first two were seen over BLNR on 1st June, late to re-appear at The Wire Dump at Spurn before working their way north over the Triangle (BRS *et al*). It was thought that these birds were probably the same as the breeding pair that turned up the next day at Bishop Middleham in Durham. On 7th June, one was seen perching on wires for two hours near Keighley (JLT *et al*). On 3rd July one was seen at Pugney's CP (IB), whilst on 6th July two were seen briefly at Bishop Monkton in North Yorkshire (RTP), and later that day four flew south at Spurn (LJD *et al*). Two were present for just a few minutes at Auckley Common near Doncaster on 8th August (TRh).

Richard's Pipit *Spurn*, October 2002 J. Harriman

Ring-necked Duck *East Park, Hull*, December 2002 G. Taylor

American Wigeon *Scalby*, October 2002 M. Ashforth

Red-backed Shrike *Easington*, October 2002 G. Taylor

Spotted Crake | *Old Moore, Wetland*, August 2002 | J. Harriman

Rosy Starling | *Runswick Bay*, June 2002 | J. Harriman

Grey Phalarope *Scarborough,* October 2002 J. Harriman

Horned (Shore) Lark *The Narrows, Spum,* October 2002 M. Ashforth

Two-barred Crossbill *Bole Edge Plantation*, September 2002 J. Harriman

Common Rosefinch *Spurn Point*, June 2002 J. Harriman

Aquatic Warbler *Spurn Point*, August 2002 J. Harriman

Yellow-browed Warbler *Spurn Point*, October 2002 M. Ashforth

Firecrest *Spurn Point*, October 2002 J. Harriman

Barred Warbler *Flamborough Head*, October 2002 J. Harriman

Black-necked Grebe *Anglers CP, W. Yorks,* April 2002 C. Corbidge

Slavonian Grebe *Thrybergh CP, S. Yorks* November 2002 C. Corbidge

Four birds (two adults and two sub-adults) were present at Newton Kyne in West Yorkshire for several weeks during the summer. The landowner, who did not wish their presence known about, was of the opinion that a breeding attempt had been made, but had failed due to the very high water level in the river in late June (*per* DJS). These birds may account for some of the other sightings in the county this year.

(In addition, three other claims of single birds in the county in 2002 have yet to be submitted).

HOOPOE *Upupa epops* 2,2,2,2,2

Rare visitor from Europe, annual in recent years; 240 previous records

This species is widely distributed across central Eurasia, the Indian sub-continent, parts of South-east Asia and North Africa.

Following the trend of recent years, two confirmed reports were received. The first was reported at Hutton-le-Hole on 1st May (JP), with the second at PHENR on 18th May (DGH). Non-birders often report this very distinctive species, and there were unconfirmed reports of single birds from the Earth Centre near Conisbrough on 3rd June and Hayburn Beck Farm near Scarborough on 22nd and 23rd November.

EURASIAN WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla* 35,11,17,8,30

Scarce coastal passage migrant; rare inland

This species breeds across Eurasia, from Britain, where it has been extinct since 1993, to Japan. The European population mostly winters south of the Sahara, and migrating Scandinavian birds are regularly reported from the county.

Reflecting a poor spring nationally, only two records were received for this period, both from Spurn. A single on the 7th May was followed by another next day.

Autumn passage was a relatively good one, with 26 records concentrated in just 18 days in early to mid-September. The first was in the Canal Hedge at Spurn on 3rd, not an unexpected record, but the next two, both inland, are more surprising as there had not yet been a major arrival on the coast. One was found at Paul Clough, near Bradford, on 6th (PC: BV) and a second bird frequented a garden in Littlethorpe in the Harrogate district from 6th to 15th September (RT). Easterly winds and heavy rain initiated a fall on the 9th September, which included the arrival of 19 Wrynecks over a two-day period. Two were found at South Gare on the 9th, with singles at Saltwick Nab, Spurn Point, Filey CP and Grimston on the same date. Next day lighter winds and sunshine provided ideal finding conditions, with Spurn hosting six and Robin Hood's Bay, Buckton, Welwick and Aldbrough one each. Two at Filey Dams on the 10th September provided an addition to the reserve list. One was at Scarborough Castle on 11th, with four at Spurn on that day, which included a new bird at Chalk Bank, whilst three lingered in the Spurn area on 12th. The influx culminated with singles on the 13th September Crook Ness, Burniston that remained to 17th and one at Sammy's Point and Easington (until the 15th) and one finally at Flamborough on the 14th. The autumn's last being at Grimston on the 21st September.

GREATER SHORT-TOED LARK *Calandrella brachydactyla* 3,1,2,4,2

Rare coastal passage migrant; 38 previous records

This species breeds from North-west Africa through Mediterranean Europe to eastern Asia, with western forms wintering south of the Sahara.

Light southerly winds, combined with warm sunny conditions, were conducive to overshooting southern European migrants on the 15th May. Therefore, it was not too surprising when Filey's third record delighted observers at the Tip (SC: HJW *et al*). This individual took full advantage of the old-fashioned strip farming methods practised on FBOG's recently acquired land.

Mirroring 2001, an autumn migrant was discovered in the first week of November, when one resided at Aldbrough on the 1st and 2nd November (TI: AFJ *et al*). The arrival of this bird coincided with an influx of coastal migrants, including large numbers of Woodcock and four Richard's Pipits.

HORNED (SHORE) LARK *Eremophila alpestris* 470,194,15,11,28

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

The world range of this species is extensive, with 25 races covering much of North America, the Colombian Andes and North Africa, as well as northern Europe east to northern China. The European race *flava* winters in fluctuating numbers on the British coasts, with some birds staying in Yorkshire and others moving north along the coast in spring.

Disappointingly few wintered, with singles at Flamborough on the 9th and 17th January and another at Atwick Gap on the 12th January. A single at South Gare on the 20th April was undoubtedly a returning passage migrant.

The first of the autumn was a single frequenting the Point area of Spurn from the 11th to the 15th October. Thereafter, almost daily at Spurn until the 20th, peaking at four on the 16th. Contributing to the mid-October arrival was a single at Cowbar on the 15th October and two over the Top Fields at Filey on the 19th. Two singles were recorded flying south over Grimston on the 26th, with one at Beacon Ponds on the same date. November opened with two at Flamborough on the 1st, followed by an inland record; a single lingering at Warley Moor Reservoir on the 2nd and 3rd November (NO *et al*). Unusually a second inland individual was discovered at Pott Moor on the 16th November (PKB: PVI). More typical were four at Crook Ness, Burniston on 12th and a single at Flamborough on the 16th, followed by two at Aldbrough on the 18th and three there on the 23rd November.

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW *Hirundo daurica* 0,4,1,7,3

Rare passage migrant; 41 previous records (43 birds)

Breeds from NW Africa through the Mediterranean through to the Middle East, with other populations east through India to Japan. Over-shooting migrants thought to be returning from Africa occur from April and post-breeding dispersal can occur into late October.

A single flushed from the rocks of Filey Brigg surprised a visitor on the 31st March (KJB). This second site record was also Yorkshire's earliest ever. After flying south across the Bay at 1320 hours, the same individual was photographed on wires in nearby Reighton village at 1400 hours (PN).

Initially almost as elusive was a single located in East Park, Hull on the 2nd and 3rd of April (BJ: BR *et al*). Thankfully, it was relocated on the 7th and thereafter gave good views near East Park until the 23rd April. The first to linger in the county for a decade, this was one of Yorkshire's most widely appreciated birds of the year, attracting admiring audiences throughout its stay. An account is in *Yorkshire Birding 11: 2 pp 61-62.*

A more typical record was a single through Spurn, which was photographed on the 4th May (SPN).

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus novaeseelandiae* 12,13,12,24,12

Scarce coastal passage migrant in autumn, rare in spring and inland

The migratory *richardi* form of this species breeds in central and eastern Asia, but regularly arrives as a migrant on the east coast from mid-September on route to uncertain wintering grounds.

A single at Grimston on the 9th September was part of the early September fall and the UK's first of the autumn (TI). The next was a single at Spurn on the 6th October, before a most creditable fly-over identified at Blacktoft Sands RSPB on the 10th October (SDW), with another over Castle Hill, Scarborough the same day (DP). Continued easterly winds brought further singles at Spurn at the Point on the 11th and at the Warren on the 14th. Light south-easterlies at the start of November produced another cluster of records, with singles at Aldbrough on the 1st and 2nd (AFJ: TI *et al*), Filey on the 2nd and 3rd (JS *et al*) and two at Beacon Ponds Nature Reserve on the 3rd (JW *et al*). The last of the year was a single at Spurn on the 17th November.

RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus* 4,3,1,1,1

Rare coastal passage migrant; 26 previous records

Breeds in the arctic zone from north Norway east to Alaska and winters from Africa to south-east Asia.

The recent trend towards autumn records continued with a single at Flamborough on the 11th October (MR *et al*).

WATER PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta* 22,25,25,16,16

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant from Europe

This species breeds in the mountains of southern Europe, dispersing northwards to winter.

Coastal records are unusual so two at Sammy's Point, Easington on the 19th and 20th January were noteworthy (MJP *et al*). More typical, were singles at Lemonroyd SF intermittently between the 19th and 26th January and one at nearby New Swillington Ings on 29th January. Thereafter, sporadic sightings at New Swillington between the 10th and 18th February, two on the 21st March and singles on the 25th March and 6th April represented a relatively poor year for this site. Singles were noted at Welton Water on 3rd February (SB) and at Fairburn Ings from the 15th February. Records in the early period were then restricted to spring migrants; one at Scalby Lodge Pond on 15th March, one moulting into summer plumage at Filey Dams on the 8th and 9th April (JHo *et al*), a full summer-plumaged individual at Brough Airfield Marsh on the 24th April (RL) and one at Thornton Moor Reservoir on the 5th May (BS).

Only three records were received from the second period for what must be one of the region's most under-recorded species: a single at Rother Valley CP on the 5th November preceded a long-stayer at Marley SF from the 23rd November to 28th December (KM: IH) and a single at Long Nab, Scarborough on the 26th November.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

Grey-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava thunbergi* 5,1,2,1,5

Rare migrant

Unusually all records this year were in autumn and associated with the early September coastal fall. Four arrived at Spurn on the 10th September, with two lingering next day and a single to the 14th September (BRS *et al*). The only other record occurred at Flamborough, where a single was identified on the 13th September (AMA).

CITRINE WAGTAIL *Motacilla citreola* 0,0,0,0,1

Vagrant; 1 previous record

The nominate race breeds from North Russia east to Siberia, but the central Asia race *M. c. werae* has expanded westwards in the 20th century and now breeds regularly in the Baltic countries. Winters from Indian subcontinent east to SE Asia.

Yorkshire's second ever was identified on call, when a single flew over an alert birder checking the 'bay brambles' at Flamborough on the 27th September. A first–winter, it remained over the weekend and was last seen on the 30th September. Educating appreciative audiences, it alternated from the golf course to a ploughed field near North Landing (RH: AM: PW *et al*). A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding 11:3 pp 107-108.* The only previous county record was a first-summer male at Filey Dams on the 18th and 19th June 1995.

BLACK-BELLIED DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus cinclus/aquaticus* 2,1,0,0,0

Vagrant; 13 previous records

A Dipper sp. which was almost certainly of continental origin was discovered at Easington Long Bank on the 13th October (TM). It has not been added to the totals.

THRUSH NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia luscinia* 0,1,0,1,1

Rare migrant; 9 previous records

The range of this east European species is still expanding north-westwards into west Norway and it is now locally abundant in southern Scandinavia. It is therefore perhaps increasingly likely to turn up on passage to its wintering grounds in East Africa, but still remains a true rarity in the county.

A singing male at Spurn from the 8th to the 10th May was typical in location, but slightly earlier than most in the county (MGS: BRS *et al*). It appeared in a period of light northerly winds, being discovered on the same day as one on the Farne Islands. This remains an exceedingly rare bird away from Spurn.

COMMON NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos* 4,2,4,2,4*

Rare breeding summer visitor in the south and rare passage migrant

The declining UK population of this trans-Saharan migrant occurs south of a line drawn from the Humber to the Severn, with Yorkshire at the northern end of its range. Some migrants from the continent, where it is more numerous, can occur.

The first was a coastal migrant in Kilnsea on the 2nd May. A male was then trapped at Thorpe Marsh, where it was present from 5th May until the 14th May (KP). Another inland site was graced by this melodic songster when a singing male spent the 8th and 9th May at Tophill Low NR (KJA: PWI: PA: RL *et al*). The last was a single trapped at Flamborough on the 12th May (PGB: JB: IM). This was only the second ever to be ringed at Flamborough, illustrating how rare coastal records north of Spurn really are.

A full survey of breeding birds was not carried out on Thorne Moors but singing males appeared to be fewer than in recent years. Males were noted to be holding territories in the following areas, Will Pits (three), colliery area (one) and Goole Moor (one). The first and last dates were 23rd April and 14th June.

* Running totals refer only to migrants

BLUETHROAT *Luscinia svecica* 6,2,4,8,3

Scarce coastal passage migrant; occasional very rare breeding species

The species breeds across the Palearctic from Spain to Siberia. The red-spotted race *svecica* breeds north of the Baltic to Alaska, and has bred in Scotland. The white-spotted forms *cyanecula* and *namnetum* breed from Spain to the Baltic states and this form has bred in the county. White-spotted Bluethroats return earlier to the breeding grounds in spring.

Adlingfleet Drain at Blacktoft Sands RSPB hosted a male white-spotted Bluethroat on the typically early spring date of 21st March (SDW). Presumably, this same individual was responsible for a series of records over the summer months: 15th to 21st and 27th June, 15th to 26th July and 28th August. On occasion, the bird showed well, feeding on the open mud in front of the hides, although it became increasingly elusive as it moulted through the summer.

Light northerly winds were responsible for the arrival of a red-spotted male at Filey on the 8th May (JS *et al*) and a first-year male was discovered at Spurn on the 18th May (PJA: RJL). A poor year, lacking favourable easterlies in the key mid-May period.

CETTI'S WARBLER *Cettia cetti* 1,0,0,1

Rare visitor; 10 previous records

Breeds in southern England, from where post-breeding dispersal or exploration is likely to occur, with northerly range expansion probably dependent on a succession of mild winters.

A singing male at Potteric Carr from the 10th February to the 21st March (DC: MR: RJS *et al*). As a species known to return to previous haunts, this was most likely the returning individual of 2001. A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding 11:3 pp 102-104.*

AQUATIC WARBLER *Acrocephalus paludicola* 1,0,0,0,1

Vagrant, usually in August; 11 previous records

A declining and globally threatened species whose breeding range is limited to an area from the German/Polish border east to western Russia. It migrates south-west through southern England and Spain and winters in West Africa.

An, at times, obliging bird in the Canal Zone at Spurn on 4th August (LJD *et al*) was the first to be twitchable in the county since 1981 when two birds were at the same location.

BLYTH'S REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus dumetorum* 0,0,0,0,1

Vagrant; 5 previous records

Breeds from southern Finland east through European Russia and Siberia as far east as Lake Baikal, and south through central Asia to N Pakistan, wintering in the Indian subcontinent and SE Asia. There has been a recent increase in records nationally with five this year. Mostly occurs in autumn, but one of the few spring records was at Spurn in 1984.

One was present at Filey CP from 12th to 16th October (AN: JS *et al*). A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding 11:4 pp 122-124.*

MARSH WARBLER *Acrocephalus palustris* 11,14,1,6,3

Scarce passage migrant; occasional rare breeding species

This trans-Saharan migrant is widespread through the Western Palearctic, but its small breeding population in southern England is declining.

Just three records this year, two in spring making it one of the poorest springs for some

time. Singing birds were at Whitestone Point, Whitby on 6th June (RSS) and South Gare on 8th June (NAP *et al*). A rare autumn record was a bird trapped at Flamborough Head on 16th August (PGB: JB).

GREAT REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* 0,1,0,1,1

Vagrant; 11 previous records

Breeds throughout much of continental Europe from Finland south, and although a rare bird in the county, has been almost annual in recent years.

An elusive singing male was at Hummersea on 19th May (MRKA *et al*).

ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina* 20,9,5,4,25

Scarce coastal passage migrant, more common in autumn

This species breeds from Norway east through central and northern Europe to western Siberia, and winters in sub-Saharan Africa. First-winter birds start to appear in early August and passage is usually over by mid-September. Nationally one in seven records are in spring, but with 5 spring records and a further 20 in the autumn this year the spring, passage was above average.

In spring one was found singing in Flatmere, Flamborough Head on 22nd May (PAL), one was at Sammy's Point, Easington on 3rd June, one was trapped at The Warren, Spurn on 6th June (RG: BRS), another trapped at Filey CP on 7th June (KF: ICS *et al*) and the final bird of the period was at South Gare on 8th June (NAP *et al*).

A good autumn commenced with an early bird at Flamborough Head on 3rd August (RB et al), with another there on 6th August in Flatmere (PAL). At Spurn, singles on 18th August (AMH), two on 24th August, with birds at The Point (DH) and Chalk Bank (MFS: ST), two on 3rd September (MGS) with singles at The Crown and in Canal Hedge, then two at Chalk Bank on 4th September, another on 9th September at The Warren (MGS: AMH) and the last at the site were two on 11th September with one at Cliff Farm (DH) and another at Horseshoe Cottage (AMH). Further north, one was at Long Nab, Burniston on 9th September (NWA: SW), one was in the Glen Gardens, Filey on 10th September (CCT *et al*) and one was at Scarborough Castle on 10th and 11th September (DP: JM). At Flamborough Head, one was in Old Fall on 10th September (JMP: MP), one at Hartendale on 13th September (JMP: MP), and one in Old Fall on 19th September (IM *et al*). One was at Easington on 14th September (LJD *et al*).

SUBALPINE WARBLER *Sylvia cantillans* 3,0,3,3,1

Rare migrant, annual in recent years; 32 previous records

Breeds through the Mediterranean from NW Africa to western Turkey and Israel, and winters in North Africa. There are four races, two of which have been recorded in the UK. 12 of the previous 32 records have been in autumn.

A singing male of the eastern race *albistriata* was at South Gare from 8th-9th June (NAP *et al*).

BARRED WARBLER *Sylvia nisoria* 15,7,3,29,24

Scarce coastal passage migrant, very rare in spring

The breeding range of this species extends through central and eastern Europe to western Siberia, with the entire population wintering in East Africa. It leaves the breeding grounds early, with the first autumn records, of juveniles, commencing in late July. Nationally only one in about 280

occurs in spring, and Yorkshire has had only one, in 1998.

A good autumn. The first was at Chalk Bank, Spurn on 24th August (LJD). Another was at The Point from 26th August to 9th September (JMc). Also at Spurn were singles at Horseshoe Cottage on 2nd September (AMH), a second bird was at The Point on 4th September, one was at Chalk Bank on 9th September (AMH: MGS), one was in The Triangle on 12th, one at The Point from 17th-18th, one in Kilnsea churchyard from 23rd-24th, one in Crown car park from 27th-29th, with another there from 7th-8th October (NPW) and the last of the year from the site was one at The Point from 22nd-30th October.

One was trapped at Flamborough Head on 28th August and remained to 2nd September (PGB: JB *et al*). One was at Kilnsea Beacon Lane on 1st September, with another there on 24th September, with one at Kilnsea Riverside the same day. One was at Filey CP on 3rd September (HJW *et al*), one at Flamborough Head from 8th-10th September (IM: JMP: MJP), with another there from 11th-16th September (PAL *et al*). Singles were at Redcar (MAB: TF: RCT *et al*) and Whitestone Point, Whitby on 10th September (RSS). In October, singles were at South Gare on 14th (ECP: DP) and Atwick from 17th-20th (WFC).

GREENISH WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochiloides* 1,0,2,0,4

Vagrant to the coast, mostly in autumn; 39 previous records

The European and W Siberian race *P. t. viridanus* has expanded westwards and breeds sporadically in Scandinavia and Germany, and from the Baltic countries east to W Siberia. It winters in the Indian subcontinent.

Yorkshire fared well during an east coast fall of this species in mid-September. Two were at South Gare on 9th September (RLi *et al*), one was at Bempton from 12th to 15th September (KB: GED *et al*) and one was at Spurn Point from 14th to 15th September (GED: JW *et al*).

PALLAS'S LEAF WARBLER *Phylloscopus proregulus* 5,17,14,2,8

Scarce autumn migrant; very rare inland; 223 previous records

Breeds from south central Siberia east to the Sea of Okhotsk, and winters in SE Asia. It mostly occurs in October, with a few records into November.

Eight birds were below par for most recent autumns for this endearing sprite. Two were at Spurn Point on 12th October (DRA: LJD *et al*), with singles at Old Fall, Flamborough Head (PAL: GRB) and South Gare (NAP *et al*) the same day. One was at Holmpton on 13th (GJS), one in Old Fall, Flamborough Head on 14th remained to 16th when it was trapped (PAL: JMP: IM *et al*). One was in Church Ravine, Filey CP from 16th-18th (AN *et al*) and the last was at Atwick from 17th-18th (WFC: MGH *et al*).

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus* 35,31,40,31,28

Scarce autumn passage migrant; rare inland

This tiny and delicate migrant breeds throughout Russia east of the Urals and winters from Nepal east to SE Asia. It mostly occurs from mid September to early November, and since the mid-1980s numbers have significantly increased. There was a reasonable autumn showing, though slightly below average for recent years.

The first was at Spurn Point on 14th September, with another at Kilnsea Church from 17th to 21st, one in Easington on 22nd (GED), one at South Landing, Flamborough Head from 27th to 28th and two were at Spurn on 28th with birds in the Canal Zone and The Point.

In October, one was at Long Nab, Burniston on 1st and one was in South Landing, Flamborough Head from 6th to 7th with a second bird on 7th. Singles were at The Point, Spurn from 8th-10th, at Coastguards Cottages, Flamborough Head on 8th, in Filey CP from 8th-9th, at Kew Villa, Spurn from 9th-11th and in South Landing, Flamborough Head on 9th. Two were at Filey CP on 9th, with one remaining to 13th. Another was at Filey Dams on 9th, with one trapped at Buckton on 9th and still present on 10th and one at Scarborough Castle on 10th (RHA). At Flamborough Head singles were in Old Fall on 10th, with three on 13th (one in South Landing and two in Sykes's Plantation), then one in Old Fall on 14th. Elsewhere, one was at South Gare on 12th (JBD: DC: KC), two were at Easington on 13th, Filey CP on 14th in Church Ravine and the last was at Easington on 19th (MJP *et al*).

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*

Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita tristis* 0,0,0,2,1

Rare coastal migrant and occasional winterer

The race *tristis* breeds through Siberia, and is much less common but more perhaps more distinctive than the race *abietinus* which replaces the nominate race in Scandinavia, and is a regular migrant through the county.

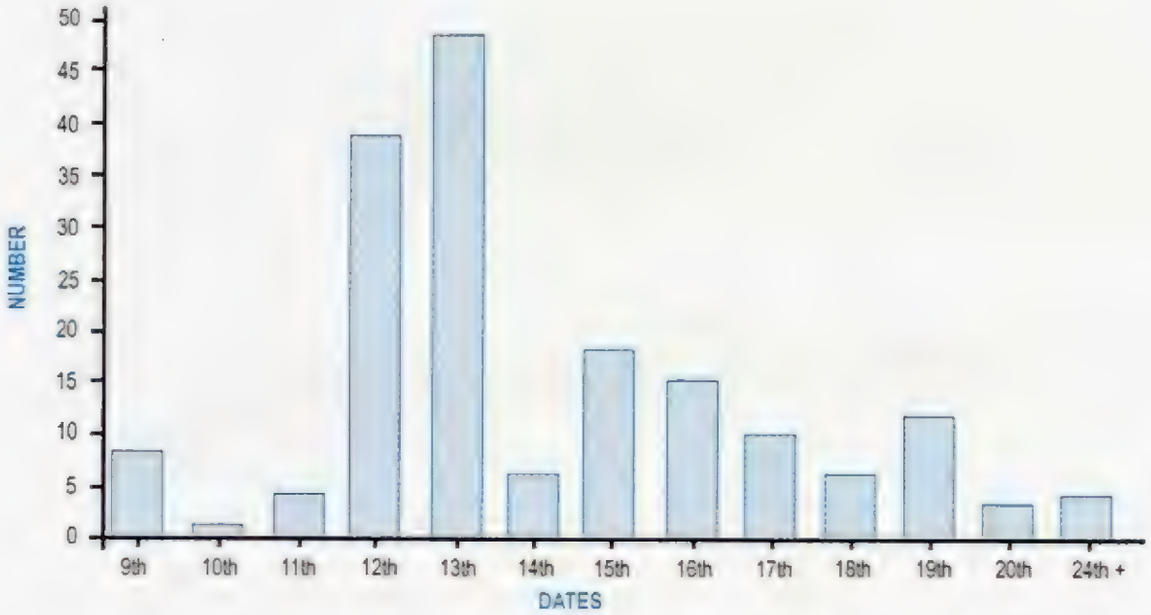
One remained at New Swillington Ings from 2003 and was last seen on 13th January (MB: GL: DR *et al*). There was just one coastal migrant in the autumn, with a bird at Flamborough Head on 20th October (MG).

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapilla* 39,45+,39,27,157

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant: bred in 1995 and 2001

This species breeds mostly in southern England, with a more extensive distribution in Europe, the more northerly populations migrating south-westwards to winter around the Mediterranean. Birds of continental origin provide a double passage on the coast, and this year there was an exceptional autumn influx with a minimum of 156 birds and a record influx was noted in mid-October.

Numbers of Firecrests October 2002



In the early part of the year, the over-wintering bird was present at New Swillington Ings (from 2001) to 13th March and another was in Rotherham from 29th-30th January.
The first spring migrant was in Peasholm Park, Scarborough on 5th March. Followed by one at Beacon Lane, Kilnsea on 12th March, then one at Aldbrough on 18th, one in Filey CP from 21st to 29th, singles at Spurn and Kilnsea Beacon Lane on 22nd, then Spurn daily from 23rd March to 10th April, with two more at The Point on 28th and one trapped at Flamborough Head on 31st. In April, one was at Spurn on 2nd, with others on 6th, 9th, and 10th, with one in Goole on 6th April, one at Filey CP on 16th April and one at Sammy's Point, Easington from 22nd-28th. In May, one was at Spurn on 11th and the last of the spring was at Robin Hood's Bay on 12th.

The first of the autumn was one at Spurn on 25th August, which was the first August record for the site. In September, there were 1-2 daily with a total of 160 bird days. One was at Kilnsea Beacon Lane on 24th, with one at Filey CP on 29th.

In October an exceptional fall delivered large numbers to coastal observers. There were 12 at Spurn on 9th; four were at Kilnsea Beacon Lane the same day, with 10 on 13th and smaller numbers to 30th October. As can be seen on the graph, the main influx occurred on 12th and 13th after a period of easterly winds and heavy rain. Between 12th and 13th, 30 were estimated at Spurn, with three by 18th and eight on 19th. At Flamborough Head there was one on 9th, and 10th, three on 11th, eight on 12th, 26 on 13th, five on 14th, 18 on 15th, 15 on 16th, nine on 17th, four on 19th and one on 20th. Elsewhere, there was one at Atwick on 9th, seven at Filey CP on 12th with birds through the following week, one at South Gare on 12th, one at Grimston on 12th, two at East Newton on 12th, one at Buckton from 12th-13th, and two trapped at Saltburn on 12th. Five were present between Robin Hood's Bay and Whitestone Point on 13th, with three or more at Grimston on 13th and one trapped at South Gare on 13th. At Scarborough Castle at least two birds were present on 13th and 14th, possibly three or four, with the last on 16th, with another present in Hundale from 13th to 19th. One was found inland at Timble Ings on 13th. A single was at Aldbrough on 14th, one in Kilnsea Churchyard on 17th, two at Atwick

on 18th, one at Holmpton on 18th. One was at Wilthorpe Marsh on 20th, a new bird was at Filey CP on 24th, one at Moor Park in Leeds on 29th, Old Denaby the same day and one trapped at Filey Cp on 30th (to 2nd November). In November, there was one in Longley Park, Huddersfield from 6th-11th, one at Spurn on 16th and one at Aspley on 26th was thought to be the Longley Park bird. One in a Headingley garden on 29th was the second site record. There was one at Old Denaby on 1st December, one at Tophill Low NR from 7th-8th December, one in New Earswick from 13th December into 2003, one at Birkby from 25th to 26th and one at Rother Valley CP from 26th to the year end completed a bumper year for this exquisite crest.

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula parva* 18,5,7,15,29

Scarce coastal passage migrant, rare in spring

Breeds from Sweden eastwards almost to the Urals, and winters in the Indian subcontinent. Just over one in twenty records are in spring, with most records in Yorkshire from mid August to mid November. It was an excellent autumn with conducive conditions in September resulting in at least 29 being reported.

The first was at Filey Brigg on 26th August (PMS *et al*). Two were at Chalk Bank, Spurn on 3rd September, one remaining until the 4th (AMH: MGS) with one at North Landing, Flamborough Head the same day (JMP). Singles were at South Gare from 9th to 11th, Atwick on 11th (WFC), Long Nab, Burniston on 11th (NWA *et al*), Old Fall, Flamborough Head on 11th (GRB) and Locke Park, Redcar on 11th (SJH). One was at The Warren, Spurn on 12th, with one at Kew/Kilnsea Church from 15th-24th (PKG: MFS) and the Canal Zone from 15th-16th (LJD) and Horseshoe Cottage on 16th (AR). One was at Cloughton on 15th (PSe) with one trapped in the Coastguards Gardens, Flamborough Head on 15th (IS: PGB: JB), and two trapped there on 16th with one at Sixpenny the same day, two remaining until 17th (PGB: JB *et al*). Singles were at Aldbrough on 17th (AFJ), Sammy's Point, Easington on 17th (GC *et al*), and Old Fall, Flamborough Head on 17th (PAL *et al*). A short break then before the next batch of records, when on 22nd, one was at Kilnsea remaining to 23rd (GC) and two were in South Landing, Flamborough Head (PAT: CT *et al*) also on 22nd, with one at Head Farm on 25th and another in Old Fall from 27th-30th (AMA: PAL *et al*).

Three in October rounded off a great autumn, with singles at The Point, Spurn on 11th, Holmpton on 18th (GED) and Buckton on 30th (GT).

EURASIAN GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus* 7,7,6,3,9

Rare passage migrant mainly in spring: bred in 1992

This species maintains a small breeding population in East Anglia, at the western edge of its range that extends from Morocco north to southern Norway and east to Mongolia. Spring records could include overshooting British birds, but most are likely to be of continental origin.

A good year. A singing bird was at St. Ives on 25th May (MD: SJT), followed by more typical birds at Spurn, where there were: two at The Point on 29th, one off the sea at the Narrows on 31st (IDW), one at The Point on 3rd June (DH *et al*), and one north on 5th June (MGS). An immature male was at East Ayton Carr on 4th June (DBy) and a singing bird was at Scarborough from 5th to 7th June (RHA: IA).

A rare autumn bird was one in Kilnsea Churchyard on 9th September (GT).

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio* 60,15,34,14,32

Scarce passage migrant; formerly bred

This species is now extinct in Britain, but breeds from Portugal north to Scandinavia and east to western Siberia, with birds migrating via the eastern Mediterranean to winter in Africa. In the county it is a classic drift migrant on easterly winds,

A poor spring, with just two birds. One was at Scalby Mills on 8th June and a female was at the Tip, Filey CP on 9th. An inland mid-summer record was a male at Hooton Pagnall near Doncaster from 12th-13th July.

The first of the autumn was a male at Filey CP from 5th to 6th August. One was in The Triangle, Spurn from 18th August to 3rd September, a juvenile was at Northcliffe, Flamborough Head on 24th August, a male was at Bempton Cliffs from 26th to 30th August and a second bird was at Spurn from 31st August to 2nd September.

A small fall took place in mid-September. Two were at South Gare on 9th September, with four there on 10th and two until 11th (NAP: APF *et al*). Two were at Spurn on 10th, and one at North Landing from 10th-11th. Singles were at Long Nab, Burniston (NWA *et al*) and Bempton Cliffs on 11th. On 13th, singles were at Sammy's Point, Easington and Arndale, Filey CP (to 16th), with another at The Tip from 14th-17th. One was at South Gare on 17th (MAB) and singles were at Spurn from 20th-24th and on 22nd, with one at Kilnsea Beacon Lane from 25th-26th. An inland bird was at Cottingham on 29th (IN). In October, singles were at Kilnsea Beacon Lane on 7th, a long-stayer at Sammy's Point, Easington from 8th October-9th November, Spurn on 19th, Kilnsea Riverside 20th (probably the same 26th to 8th November) and one was at Easington on 28th.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor* 43,18,10,4,10

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

This species breeds from Scandinavia eastwards through to North America, with birds moving south in winter. It occurs as a coastal passage bird in the county, but small numbers also winter inland in Britain, often setting up territories and returning in successive winters. Numbers nationally have declined in recent years.

There was just one record in the early part of the year, a sub-adult female at Barden Moor on 26th March (SR: AGG *et al*).

The first of the autumn was at Sammy's Point, Easington from 10th-13th October. Three were at Flamborough Head on 11th, one remaining to 13th, with perhaps one of these birds also seen on 17th. One was at Easington on 13th, one in The Triangle, Spurn from 14th-17th, another at Kilnsea Beacon Lane on 15th, one at Sammy's Point, Easington on 17th was perhaps the bird from 10th-13th and the last of the year was at Spurn on 17th.

HOODED CROW *Corvus cornix* -,-,-,3,1

Increasingly rare visitor, usually on passage, with occasional winter records.

Breeds in Ireland, the Isle of Man and north-west Scotland, but also in northern and central Europe, where the northern populations are migratory. Recently split as a separate species from Carrion Crow *Corvus corone.*

In keeping with recent times, there was just one record, a single at Beverley on 18th October (RL: EJH).

ROSY STARLING *Sturnus roseus* 0,1,1,2,11

Rare visitor in spring and summer; 46 previous records (47 birds)

This irruptive species breeds from south Ukraine and central Turkey east to Kazakhstan and Afghanistan, occasionally breeding in south-east Europe. As part of a national influx, Yorkshire shared in the spoils with no less than 11 birds. Several lingered, providing ample opportunity to catch up with the species in the county.

The first were on 8th June, with one at South Gare (SMa *et al*) and another at Whitestone Point, Whitby (to 10th) (JAB: AZ, *et al*). One frequented a garden at Runswick Bay from 9th-13th (Mrs. PA Bell *et al*) and another was at Marske on 11th (ADM). An adult was at Cromer Point, Scarborough on 12th, later flying south (M: JH), one was at Stillington on 14th (JW), then singles at Atwick on 19th June (EJH *et al*), and Seamer on 22nd June (Mr. E and Mrs. J Watson).

This initial influx was followed by one at Swinefleet from 11th-23rd July (SDW *et al*), then an adult at Skipsea from 7th-12th August (PSw *et al*) and the last of a superb influx was a first-summer male at Flamborough Head from 20th-24th August (AMW *et al*).

EUROPEAN SERIN *Serinus serinus* 2,0,1,2,1

Rare passage migrant in spring and autumn; 41 previous records, 2 in winter

Breeds commonly through continental Europe to NW Africa.

Typically scarce, with one at Spurn on 2nd June (AMH).

TWO-BARRED CROSSBILL *Loxia leucoptera* 0,0,0,0,1

Vagrant; 7 previous records

Breeds in larch *Larix* forests from N. Russia east to eastern Siberia, sometimes breeding after irruptions in Finland and very occasionally in Sweden and Norway.

A male at Bole Edge Plantation to the west of Sheffield from 1st to 5th September (MG *et al*) proved elusive at times and was the first in the county since 1990. A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding 11:3 pp 87-91.*

COMMON ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus erythrinus* 13,12,12,15,10

Scarce passage migrant; occasional very rare breeding species (first in 1992)

This species winters in southern Asia, but its breeding range across northern Eurasia has expanded westwards to reach Scandinavia this century, and it has bred sporadically in Britain since 1982 and Yorkshire since 1992.

An adult male was in Canal Hedge, Spurn on 2nd June (AMH) with a different male at The Point the following day (AMH). A second-year male was in Filey Church Ravine from 6th to 8th June (PLM *et al*). An interesting batch of inland records included two at Thirsk from 7th to 10th June (MC), a male visiting a garden feeder in Giggleswick from 11th to 21st June (Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell: KRM) and a male singing at Malham Tarn on 11th June, and possibly the following day (KRM: SR).

In autumn, one was present on four dates at Spurn from 11th to 16th September (BRS *et al*), a juvenile/female was in allotments on Filey Road, Flamborough Head on 15th September (FXM *et al*) and one was in Arndale Way near Filey CP on 21st September (IC: FXM).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW *Zonotrichia albicollis* 0,0,0,01

Vagrant from North America; 1 previous record in 1983

Breeds in North America across central and southern Canada to north USA, wintering in southern USA.

Bird of the year for many was one at Flamborough Head from 22nd to 29th October (MC: JMP: BR *et al*). This was the 2nd county record, following one in 1983. A full account is in *Yorkshire Birding 11:4 pp 132-133.*

ORTOLAN BUNTING *Emberiza hortulana* 7,4,2,2,2

Rare passage migrant, mainly in autumn

Breeds from Spain north-east through continental Europe to Scandinavia and east to western Siberia and Mongolia, and winters from Arabia west through sub-Saharan Africa. It was predictably scarce once again, with records at premium.

Just two birds were noted, both at Spurn. A female/1st-year was at The Point on 10th August (AR) and a female/1st-year was at The Point on 2nd September (AMH).

LITTLE BUNTING *Emberiza pusilla* 2,1,3,5,2

Rare passage migrant, mainly in autumn; 51 previous records (53 birds)

Breeds from Scandinavia eastwards to the Sea of Okhotsk and winters from Turkestan to south-east Asia and China. A small number of wintering records from Britain in recent years.

One frequented The Warren/Triangle area of Spurn between 19th and 29th September (BRS: MGS) and one was at Atwick from 18th to 19th October (MGH: DAPW *et al*).

CATEGORY B

Species that were recorded in Britain in an apparently wild state prior to 31st December 1949, but are not accepted by BOURC as having occurred naturally since then. Ruddy Shelduck has now been moved into this category.

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea* **(N Africa, S Eurasia) BE***

Rare vagrant; feral/escapes confuse status

A party of seven flew east on 16th August at Southfield Res and three flew west at Blacktoft Sands on 23rd August (SDW). One flew south-west over Potteric Carr on 28th October (SMB). One accompanied Greylag Geese at Bolton-on-Swale in November.

CATEGORY D

Species whose status is being monitored the BOURC (see *Ibis 136: p253*).

WHITE PELICAN *Pelecanus onocrotatus* **(W Eurasia, Africa) DE**

MARBLED DUCK *Marmaronetta angustirostris* **W Eurasia, N Africa) DE**
One carrying a red ring was at Horbury Wyke from 31st July to 3rd August (JMc: BA *et al*).

SAKER *Falco cherrug* **(S Eurasia) DE**
One at Nosterfield on 17th May was a known escape. One brought from York to the Ryedale Rehabilitation Centre on 26th May died overnight. At Flamborough Head an immature bird was recorded on 20th and 22nd October, and again on 4th November. No jesses were seen on this bird.

CATEGORY E

Species that have been recorded as introductions, transportees or escapees from captivity, and whose breeding populations, if any, are thought not to be self-sustaining. Category E species form no part of the British List. The range and status on the provisional BOU category E list is given after the name, as some species fall into more than one category.

EUROPEAN WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia* **(West Eurasia,Africa) AE** The escapes of this species are treated in the main systematic list.

SACRED IBIS *Threskiornis aethiopicus* **(Africa) E**
One was at Broomhill Ings on 4th August, and probably the same bird was at Wheldrake Ings on 20th.

LESSER FLAMINGO *Phoeniconaias minor* **(Africa, NW India) E**
Seen on the Humber again, at Skeffling in March.

FULVOUS WHISTLING DUCK *Dendrocygna bicolor* **(Americas, Africa, India) E**
One was at Anglers' CP on November 17th.

BLACK SWAN *Cygnus atratus* **(Australia, New Zealand) E***
One presumably mobile individual was reported on Lowther Lake on 9th and 14th April, Skelton Lake from 14th July to 10th August, Leventhorpe Pond from 17th to 26th August, on the river at Swillington Ings on 28th September and on Skelton Lake on 5th October. Elsewhere, one was at Micklethwaite on 25th May, one flew south at Filey on 26th May and one was at TLNR on 13th June and at several locations in the Hull Valley, including Hornsea Mere on 3rd August and Wansford on 27th November and 2nd and 12th December. One at Thrybergh CP from 14th June was joined by another on 18th, with both remaining to the end of the month, later to be seen at Rother Valley CP on 5th July, and later Thrybergh CP, where they were joined by a third

on 10th November, and further records to the year end came from Rother valley CP and Thrybergh Banks.

SWAN GOOSE *Anser cygnoides* **(NC Asia, Siberia) E***

One at Kilnwick Percy on 20th April. One was briefly at New Swillington Ings on 9th June.

BAR-HEADED GOOSE *Anser indicus* **(Central Asia) E***

Up to two were reported on the Washburn Reservoirs again this year, with Canada Geese, from January to August. One was at Anglers' CP on May 21st, one flew west over Astley Lake with 19 Greylag on 16th June, and one was at Rother Valley CP on 17th, with perhaps the same bird at Southfield Res on 18th. Presumably the Swillington bird was at Lindley Wood Res on 24th June and 17th August, and Eccup Res on 17th September and from 30th September to 6th October. One with Greylag was in the Hull Valley from 22nd August at Watton and later at Brandesburton on 8th September and Hornsea Mere on 6th November. One associated with the Greylag flocks in the Ripon Racecourse, Littlethorpe, Ladybridge Lake, Nosterfield NR and Staveley NR areas during October and December.

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens* **(N America & Greenland) AE***

A white phase was at Astley Lake, New Swillington Ings, on 7th, 8th and 12th January. Two were at Nosterfield NR in November, whilst single "blue" birds were at Harewood Park on 6th November and 8th December.

EMPEROR GOOSE *Anser canagicus* **(Siberia and Alaska) E**

One was at Eccup Res from 7th August to 6th October and on 22nd December.

MAGELLAN GOOSE *Chloephaga picta* **(S S America, Falkland Islands)**

Two males were at Farnham GP on 4th October before flying off with Canada Geese. The third species of *Chloephaga* goose in two years.

RUDDY-HEADED GOOSE *Chloephaga rubidiceps* **(S America)**

One was at Harewood Park on 12th July and Eccup Res. from 15th to 29th August and on 6th September.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis* **(E Greenland, Svalbard, Novaya Zemlya) AE***

Feral birds were again present during the summer at Flamingoland.

RED-BREASTED GOOSE *Branta ruficollis* **(N C Siberia) AE**

One or two birds were present for most of the year at either Harewood Park or Eccup Res. One associated with goose flocks in VC 65 at both ends of the year. On 1st January it was at Nicholson's Lagoons, on 14th January it was at Staveley NR, and it was also reported from Hay-a-Park GP that month, and again in August. In September it was at Bellflask Quarry, Staveley NR and Farnham GP, where it was last seen on 2nd October.

Ross's Gull *Scarborough*, March 2002 I. Leach

Ross's Gull *Scarborough*, March 2002 J. Harriman

Ross's Gull *Scarborough*, March 2002 I. Leach

Ross's Gull *Scarborough*, March 2002 I. Leach

Marsh Sandpiper | *Blacktoft Sands*, April 2002 | J. Harriman

Eurasian Dotterel | *Ingleborough, N. Yorks*, May 2002 | C. Corbidge

Eurasian Spoonbill *Blacktoft Sands*, May 2002 J. Harriman

Grey Phalarope *Sprotborough*, October 2002 G. Taylor

MUSCOVY DUCK *Cairina moschata* **(C & S America) E***

Up to four birds were reported from Swinsty Res. Dowley Gap Locks and the weir on Silsden Beck between March and September. A "superb specimen" was at Catcliffe Flash from 12th April to late July. A pair was at Scaling Dam Res on 25th April, with one there on 24th June.

RINGED TEAL *Callonetta leucophrys* **(C & S America) E**

One was seen on 6 dates at Elland GP between 12th February and 28th December.

WOOD DUCK *Aix sponsa* **(N America) E***

A drake was at Yeadon Tarn on 18th May. Drakes were at Lowther Lake on 13th July, Hay-a-Park GP from 3rd October to 30th November and at High Royd SF on 10th November. Two released on East Park Lake in Hull in December soon disappeared.

MANED DUCK *Chenonetta jubata* **(Australia) E**

A long-staying bird spent most of the year on Tong Park Res.

AMERICAN WIGEON *(Anas americana)* **(N America) A E**

A drake was at Harewood Park on 14th July.

RED-BILLED DUCK *Anas erythrorhyncha* **(S & E Africa) E**

One was at Harewood Park on 14th July.

CINNAMON TEAL *Anas cyanoptera* **(Americas) E***

A female was at Graves Park, south Sheffield, from 13th March to 22nd May (MGF).

HARRIS'S HAWK *Parabuteo unicinctus* **(C & S America) E**

One with jesses and a broken wing was brought from Catterick to the Ryedale Rehabilitation Centre on 20th January, where put to sleep. One was at Bramham Park on 17th February and on several dates in Harewood Park later in the year. Two birds were in the Hoodstorth area between 13th April and 5th May. One was just north of Wetherby in October, and was seen to catch a Collared Dove in flight.

LANNER *Falco biarmicus* **(Africa, Middle East) E**

A bird with jesses was over Knotford Nook on 14th April.

GOLDEN PHEASANT *Chrysolophus pictus* **(China) CE***

Escaped or deliberately released species; has bred

Single males were at Bewholme in the Hull Valley on 8th July, near Beckwithshaw in September and at Farnham GP on 6th October. Two immature males and four females were at Bretton Park on 2nd December.

BLUE-AND-YELLOW MACAW *Ara ararauna* **(Central & S America)**

One was on a house roof in Silsden on 8th May.

SCARLET MACAW *Ara macao* **(Central & S America)**
One was watched at Otley GP on 30th November.

BUDGERIGAR *Melopsittacus undulatus* **(Australia) E***
One at TLNR on 14th July and one at Rother Valley CP on 23rd December were the only records received.

COCKATIEL *Nymphicus hollandicus* **(Australia) E**
One was at Flamborough on 25th June; one was at Highroad Well Moor, Halifax on 8th July, while singles in Ripon on 16th July, at Studley Royal on 24th August and in Ripon on 21st October may have been the same individual. Other singles were over South Cave on 12th August, in New Earswick, York on 20th August, at Staveley NR on 12th and 19th September, and at Lower Barden Res on 27th September and Thornton Moor Res, also on 27th September.

AFRICAN GREY PARROT *Psittacus erithacus* **(W Africa) E**
One was at High Green, Sheffield on 9th April.

ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri* **(Africa, India) CE***
One flew over Farnham GP on 2nd January, two flew east at Thrybergh CP on 8th, and another in Castleford that month, with one reported from Pudsey on 3rd February. Singles were at Flamborough Head on 23rd June, at Hemmingfield, Birdwell and Carlton, Barnsley in August, and also at Southfield Res on 14th August, Woodlesford on 5th September, at Fairburn Ings, Flamborough Head and Spurn on 11th September. One was seen or heard flying over Lemonroyd on 31st October and 1st, 9th and 19th November, near Methley bridge on 2nd November and over Woodlesford Lock car park on 24th November. A female or immature visited gardens in Kirklevington from 9th December into 2003.

ALEXANDRINE PARAKEET *Psittacula alexandri* **(India, SE Asia) E***
The individual first reported in 1997 was present in the St Chad's area of Middlesbrough throughout the year. One was present at Spurn from 15th to 21st September.

PEACH-FACED LOVEBIRD *Agapornis roseicollis* **(S Africa) E**
One was at Spurn in July.

LOVEBIRD Sp.
Addition to 2001 report: one considered to be Nyasa Lovebird *Agapornis lilianae* was seen in flight and perched at Thorne Moors on 10th August.

CRIMSON ROSELLA *Platycercus elegans* **(E Australia) E**
Three were in Filey on 24th March, with one or two present to 28th April.

EURASIAN EAGLE OWL *Bubo bubo* **(Palearctic) E***
During the last five years the pair at Catterick has raised 17 young. A bird stayed around Ilkley Crags from mid-February to the beginning of March when it was recaptured. Another was

reported from Sheffield in late February and one was near Bellflask on 13th May. One was at High Melton in October.

RED-WHISKERED BULBUL *Pycnonotus jocosus* **(India, SE Asia) E**
One was present in Broomhill village in April.

HIMALAYAN GREENFICH *Carduelis spinoides* **(Asia)**
A male visited a garden feeder at Skedding in North Yorkshire on 25th November.

COMMON WAXBILL *Estrilda astrild* **(Africa)**
A very confiding bird was at Silsden on 17th July.

ZEBRA FINCH *Poephila guttata* **(Australia) E**
One was in Filey gardens on 8th August.

RED-COLLARED WIDOW-BIRD *Euplectes ardens* **(Africa)**
A male was seen regularly at Rother Valley CP from mid-August to late November.

BLACK-WINGED RED BISHOP *Euplectes hordeacea* **(Africa) E**
A male was in a Nunthorpe garden on several occasions in the summer.

RED-BILLED QUELEA *Quelea quelea* **(Africa) E**
Singles were seen at Spurn on 2nd and 12th August, with two there on 4th.

RED-BILLED STARLING *Sturnus sericeus* **(SE Asia, China)**
One was present in Whitby from early June to July.

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO PREVIOUS REPORTS

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*
1991: After a heavy downpour during light north-easterly winds, one spent just seven minutes at Broomhill Flash from 1230 on 6th July before flying north (AA: DJS: DMW *et al*).

EURASIAN SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia*
2001: One was seen on Thorne Moors on 7th May when a bird flew low to Will Pits Scrape as if to land (RA), bringing the total of records to 25 for the year.

SURF SCOTER *Melanitta perspicillata*
2001: A well-described drake flew north with two Black Scoter off Marine Drive, Scarborough at 0715 on 10th September (RHA).

LESSER KESTREL *Falco naumanni*
1867: One reported shot near Green Hammerton in November has been rejected following a review by BOURC *(in lit)*.

COMMON CRANE *Grus grus*

2001: Two birds were heard at Pony Bridge Marsh, Thorne Moors, on 23rd May, later seen flying towards Swinefleet (JGH: DWa). These are considered to be the same birds reported on 24th and 27th May in the 2001 Report. The last date reported was 28th May (AS).

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis fulva*

1995: A juvenile/first-winter was at Buckton from 22nd October to 7th November (DW *et al*).

ROSS'S GULL *Rhodostethia rosea*

1846: One reported killed on the 22nd December near Tadcaster has now been rejected following a review by BOURC *(in lit)*.

BLACK LARK *Melanocorypha yeltoniensis*

1984: A male was seen at the Point on 27th April (the late N. A. Bell, A. Cruickshank, B. R. Spence). This was the first Yorkshire record and a first for Britain.

COMMON NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos*

2001: *errata* the record of one at Cattersty Gill on 25th September was an editorial error, and should be deleted. The number of singing males reported from Thorne Moors was arrived at over a number of nights up to, not solely on, the 4th June.

ORPHEAN WARBLER *Sylvia hortensis*

1848: The record of a female shot on the 6th July in a small plantation near Wetherby, and a male seen nearby, have now been rejected following a review by BOURC *(in lit)*. This specimen is in the Leeds Museum. However, the lack of a named collector, the unlikely account of implied breeding and the unusual time of year gave BOURC sufficient doubts.

HUME'S LEAF WARBLER *Phylloscopus humei*

1985: One at Spurn on 26th and 27th October and trapped (ASB: JCu: BRS) brings the total accepted Yorkshire records to nine.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor*

2001: One was seen on Thorne Moors on 5th November, bringing the total to four for that year.

TWO-BARRED CROSSBILL *Loxia leucoptera*

1826: One at Plompton, Knaresborough has now been rejected following a review by BOURC *(in lit)*.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

The following observers have contributed records to this report, with apologies for any omissions. Either they have submitted records directly, or their initials appear in a local report for the species included in the systematic list. The Editor thanks all who have submitted records.

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H O Bunce
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P J Carlton [PJC]
G Carr [GCa]
J Carr [JC]
D Carroll [DC]
N Carter [NC]
G Catley [GC]
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T R Cleeves [TRC]
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M Corner [MCo]
I Court [IC]
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M G Fenner [MGF]
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J T Harriman
J Harwood [JH]
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E J Hediger [EJH]
W Hesketh
B Hewitt
J Hewitt [JHe]
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I Higginson [IH]
B Hill [BH]
R D Hill
D Hinchcliffe [DHi]
S J Hinley [SJN]
J G Hitchcock [JGH]
D G Hobson [DGH]
M G Hodges [MGH]
J Holliday
R N Hopper
J Horton
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R Knight
D Lakin [DL]
T Lalley

P A Lassey [PAL]
J Law
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G Y Leach [GYL]
I H Leach
P Leonard
D Lightowler [DLi]
K & P Limb
M Limbert
G M Lindley
P A Linger
R Little [RLi]
R J Lowe [RJL]
Ms D Lukey [Ms DL]
R Lyon [RL]
D McAlevy
T McEvoy [TMc]
J McLoughlin [JMc]
D Manchester
S Mann [SMa]
A Marshall [AM]
D Mansell
I Marshall [IM]
I Martin [IMa]
R Martin [RM]
P R Massey [PRMa]
J R Mather [JRM]
G N Megson [GNM]
T Melling [TM]
P Meredith [PM]
M G Metcalfe [MGM]
D R Middleton [DRM]
J Middleton [JM]
S Mills [SM]
Mr & Mrs Mitchell
F X Moffatt [FXM]
K Moir [KM]
D A Money [DAM]
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P R Morris [PRM]
P L Mountain [PLM]
K R Mudd [KRM]
S Mulligan
M G Neal [MGN]
I Nethercote
I P Nicholson
S P Nicholson [SPN]
A Norris [AN]
J O'Malley [JoM]
N Oliver [NO]
D M Owen
D Page
J K Palliser
L Palmer [LP]
E C Parker [ECP]
R T Partish [RTP]
V Parslow [VP]
D M Pearce
J M Pearson [JMP]
K Pearson [KP]
M J Pearson [MJPe]
DH Pennington [DHP]
J Pewtress [JP]
P Piringer [PP]
M J Pilsworth [MJP]
D M Pogson [DMP]
J Poland
J D Pope
J D Postlethwaite
D Poyser [DP]
N A Preston [NAP]
W H Priestley [WHP]
D Proctor
R H Proctor
S Radcliffe [SR]
S Ralph [SRa]
C S Ralston [CSR]
J Regan [JR]
S C Renouf [SCR]
P Rhodes [PR]
T Rhodes [TRh]
B Richards [BR]
A Richardson
T Richardson [TR]
G Rickers [GR]
A Roadhouse [AR]
M Roberts [MRo]
K Robinson [KR]
M Rowbotton [MR]
J Sanderson [JS]
D J Scanlan
P M Scanlan [PMS]
A Scott [AS]
P Scott
R Scott
R J Scott [RJSc]
N P Senior
P Senior [PSe]
J L Sharp [JLS]
B Sharrock [BS]
J Sherwin [JSh]
P C Short [PCS]
I C Simms [ICS]
D J Simpson [DJS]
S P Singleton [SPS]
T Skirrow [TSk]
R S Slack [RSS]
M A Smethurst
J N Smith [JNS]
P Smith [PS]
J R Smithson [JRS]
P Snook [PSn]
L Sollitt [LS]
M Spedding [MS]
G J Speight [GJS]
B R Spence [BRS]
R J Sprakes [RJS]
D J Standring
D Starkey [DS]
R Stephenson [RSt]
M Stone [MSt]
M F Stoyle [MFS]
M G Stoyle [MGS]
B Sumner
R Swales
P Swallow [PSw]
D Sykes
D Tate [DT]
G Taylor [GT]
G J Taylor [GJT]
R Taylor [RT]
R C Taylor [RCT]
C C Thomas [CCT]
G Thomas [GTh]
J W Thompson [JWT]
S J Thompson [SJT]
G Thrussell
C Tinson [CT]
P A Tinson [PAT]
R Tite [RT]
J L Topham [JLT]
P T Treloar [PTT]
M Tunmore [MT]
J M Turton [JMT]
B Vickers [BV]
D M Waddington [DMW]
S Wadsworth
M J Wainman [MJW]
B P Wainwright [BPW]
T Wales
I D Walker
J Wallace [JW]
D Walsh [DWa]
D Warburton
D A P Ward [DAPW]
J Ward
M Warrington [MWa]
J C Warwick
S P Warwick
G V Watola [GVW]
E & J Watson
D Waudby [DW]
I Webster [IW]
S D Wellock [SDW]
M C Wells
P S Wells [PSW]
H J Whitehead [HJW]
K Whitehead
N P Whitehouse [NPW]]
M Wiggins [MW]
E Wignill
S Wignill [SW]
P Wilby
D Williams [DWi]
J Wint [JW]
D Wood
T Wormald [TW]
S P Worwood [SPWo]
J Wozencroft [JWo]
P Wren [PW]
K Wright [KW]
A Young
L Young [LY]
A Zabukas [AZ]

LOCAL REPORTS

The following local society and club reports have been received, and readers requiring additional information on those areas are advised to consult the relevant report.

Blacktoft Sands RSPB Ornithological Report 2002

Bradford Ornithological Group 2002

Broomhill Ings and Old Moor Bird Report 2002

Cleveland Bird Report 2002 (Teesmouth Bird Club)

Denaby Ings Nature Reserve Report 2002

Fairburn Ings Nature Reserve Report No. 34, 2002

Filey Brigg Bird Report 2002 (Filey Brigg Ornithological Group)

Flamborough Head Bird Report 2002 (Flamborough Head Ornithological Group)

Halifax Birdwatchers' Club Report 2002

Harrogate and District Naturalists' Society Bird Report 2002

Huddersfield Bird Club Report 2002

Hull Valley Report 2002 (Hull Valley Wildlife Group)

Leeds Birdwatchers' Club Report 2002

Potteric Carr Bird Report 2002

Ryedale Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre Report 2002

Scarborough District Bird Report 2002 (The Scalby Nabs Ornithological Group)

Sheffield: Birds in the Sheffield Area 2002 (Sheffield Bird Study Group)

South Holderness Countryside Society (Newsletters and database)

Southfield Res and Went Ings Bird Report 2002

Sprotbrough Flash and Don Gorge Ornithological Report 2002

Spurn Wildlife No. 12 (Spurn Bird Observatory)

Thorne Moors Bird Report 2002

Reports and lists were also received from:

Beacon Lane Ponds and Holderness Logs; New Earswick; Pudsey Ornithological Club; Stone Creek; Swillington Ings; Wharfedale Naturalists and Wintersett.

DESCRIPTION REQUIREMENTS

It is our aim to continue to present these reports with complete accuracy so that those who use them in the future may accept the records of all species without doubt or query.

British Birds Rarities

All national rarities must be described and accepted by BBRC to be included in the YNU report. We would prefer to receive the description first and will forward it immediately to BBRC. BBRC do request that all records be submitted through the County Recorder system. Failing this, we would at least expect to receive a copy. A list of species for which descriptions are required by BBRC for publication in their Annual Report on Rare Birds in Great Britain is available from British Birds.

County Rarities

Descriptions are required for the species listed below.

Cory's Shearwater
Ring-billed Gull
Great Shearwater
Sabine's Gull [inland records only]
British Storm-petrel (sight records)
Roseate Tern [inland records only]
Leach's Storm-petrel
Black Guillemot
Black-crowned Night Heron
European Bee-eater
Purple Heron
Greater Short-toed Lark
Bean Goose (to race/species)
Richard's Pipit
Ruddy Shelduck
Tawny Pipit
American Wigeon
Common Nightingale (away from breeding area)
Green-winged Teal
Cetti's Warbler
Ring-necked Duck
Aquatic Warbler
Surf Scoter
Marsh Warbler
European Honey Buzzard
Icterine Warbler (inland records)
White-tailed Eagle
Melodious Warbler
Montagu's Harrier
Dartford Warbler
Rough-legged Buzzard
Pallas's Leaf Warbler (inland records)
Golden Eagle
Yellow-browed Warbler (inland records)
Spotted Crake
Red-breasted Flycatcher (inland records)
Corn Crake
Eurasian Golden Oriole
Stone-curlew
Woodchat Shrike
Kentish Plover
Red-billed Chough
Temminck's Stint
European Serin
Pectoral Sandpiper
Rosy Starling
Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Common Rosefinch
Red-necked Phalarope
Cirl Bunting
Grey Phalarope
Ortolan Bunting
Pomarine Skua [inland records only]
Little Bunting

Races and other unusual occurrences

The Committee will require descriptions to support records of difficult to determine races, particularly those whose taxonomic status is under review (including Caspian Gull, Black-bellied Dipper and Siberian Chiffchaff).
The Reports Committee may request descriptions to support records of well-defined races of commoner species, (e.g. Grey-headed Wagtail), or to support records of migrant birds out of season, and commoner birds seen in unusual circumstances.

The committee is willing to assist in adjudicating any records for local Groups and Societies.

Changes to the list of species requiring descriptions

Little Egret and Common Crane have been removed from the list. Both species appear to be becoming increasingly numerous, with some summering birds now in the county. Observers should ensure that potential escapes have been eliminated.

Balearic Shearwater, Sabine's Gull and Roseate Tern, together with Icterine Warbler, Pallas's Warbler and Red-breasted Flycatcher have also been removed, as from 1st January 2002, from the list of species requiring descriptions, although all inland records of Sabine's Gull and Roseate Tern and the three passerines will still need to be described. The coastal Bird Observatories will be expected to vet records of these species, but the committee reserves the right to request descriptions of these species from observers not known to them, and from other coastal sites.

Icterine Warbler can be difficult, but Filey and Spurn BO's vet their records well. With Taiga Flycatcher now admitted to the British list, Red-breasted Flycatchers will be examined more closely by observers. The Committee feels that a similar relationship to the one between Hume's and Yellow-browed Warblers will be more appropriate, with the onus on the observer to prove the identification of the national rarity. Pallas's Warbler was still regarded as a national rarity until relatively recently, but less so in Yorkshire. No records of theses three passerines have been rejected by the YNU in the last five years.

Records of these species will only be published by the YNU if they are submitted in writing and can therefore be attributed to observer(s), or published in the relevant Bird Observatory Report.

Black-crowned Night-Heron, American Wigeon, and Rosy Starling have been added to the list from 1st January 2002, as these three species will no longer be considered by BBRC from that date. In addition, in the cases of closely related species groups such as American/Pacific Golden Plover, pratincole sp. and dowitcher sp. where no specific identification has been reached, BBRC will not judge these records either. They will be added to the YNU list for the sake of completeness and to monitor occurrences.

The work of the Reports Committee can be aided considerably if observers submit descriptions as soon as possible after the bird has been seen. Details should include the description taken in

the field before reference to any text books; the locality; date and time; habitat; weather conditions; optical aids used; distance from the bird; period of observation; species present for comparison, if any, and previous experience of the species. Forms for submitting details based upon those by the BBRC can be obtained from any Vice-County Recorder or by e-mail from the editors.

RARE BREEDING BIRDS IN YORKSHIRE

Observers who have first-hand knowledge of rare breeding birds within the county are requested to submit their evidence to the appropriate Vice-County Recorder or the Report Editor, to be forwarded to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel. The RBBP was formed in 1972 by representatives of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the British Trust for Ornithology, The Nature Conservancy Council and British Birds. The present Panel is made up of representatives of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, RSPB, BTO, and the Association of County Report Editors, together with two independent members and a Secretary. The Panel's prime function is to act as a secure depository of sensitive information on the breeding of rare birds in Britain.

Information is required for all species on Schedule 1 of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act, plus all other species dealt with by the Panel, including other rare birds and scarcer non-native species, including feral geese, Black Swan, Muscovy Duck, Parakeets etc. Information is requested on breeding or potential breeding records of all of these species in three categories:

Possible	Probable	Proved

Definitions of these categories are on the recording forms.

Species that are known to have bred, or attempted to have done so in recent years, in Yorkshire, are listed below.

Black-necked Grebe
Great Bittern
*Gadwall
Northern Pintail
Garganey
*Common Pochard
European Honey Buzzard
Eurasian Marsh Harrier
*Hen Harrier
Montagu's Harrier
*Northern Goshawk
*Eurasian Hobby
Common Quail
Spotted Crake
Corn Crake
Avocet
*Little Ringed Plover
Black-tailed Godwit
Little Gull
Roseate Tern
*Little Tern
*Barn Owl
Eagle Owl
*Woodlark
Bluethroat
Black Redstart
Fieldfare
Marsh Warbler
Firecrest
*Bearded Tit
Eurasian Golden Oriole
*Common Crossbill
Parrot Crossbill
Common Rosefinch

In the case of the Less Scarce Species (marked * above), the VC Recorder prepares a summary each year for the Panel.

For the Rare Species, recording forms are completed detailing the status, success and site of each pair.

The system used by the Panel for indicating geographical locations in their report is done on a regional basis with Yorkshire being part of "England North". In some instances the county will be named but should the observer request the omission of "Yorkshire" the Panel will respect this with only the region being named. A full list of the species considered by the Panel appeared in *British Birds 81: p 102 – 103*, and is on the RBBP website.

Observers may, if they wish, submit records directly to the Panel Secretary, but the normal procedure is to send them in the first instance to the relevant County Recorder who will forward them to the Panel.

Panel report forms are available from the Report Editor, Vice-County recorders or direct from the RBBP by post or from the RBBP website.

Write to:

The Secretary,
Rare Breeding Birds Panel,
Glencairn, Bruichladdich,
Isle of Islay
PA49 7UN

Phone: 01496-850218
Fax: 0870-164-1397

e-mail: RBBP@indaal.demon.co.uk

Website: www.rbbp.org.uk

European Bee-eater (Merops apiaster) in the Lower Wharfe Valley in 2002.

On 17th August 2002 I received a phone call about an issue which, I was told, had to be regarded as confidential as the landowner wanted no publicity or gathering of crowds - such as was happening in a situation in Durham involving the same species. Over a period of four weeks or so, the landowner's gardener had noticed up to four birds flying around which were calling differently from anything he had previously heard in the vicinity. Though he could hardly believe it, he thought that they were probably Bee-eaters, which he had seen and heard on holidays abroad. It was suggested that they might have tried to breed in the sandy banks of the nearby river but, if this had been so, it was thought likely that they had been washed out by unseasonable floods a couple of weeks previously.
My assistance was being sought to confirm the identification. Whilst I was still very busy with my Red Kite work, I agreed to find time to check the situation.

I visited the site the following day and almost immediately heard distinctive trilling calls which I took to be the birds in question. They were quite elusive and persisted in flying around on the other side of a stand of mature trees, only occasionally coming into view. I saw at least three birds. Eventually one bird settled in view in a tree-top. The view through the scope, together with the digi-scoped images I managed to obtain, showed it to be quite colourful and to have longish tail-streamers. I recognised it as being a European Bee-eater (Merops apiaster). The birds kept up this behaviour for several hours, and at no time did they perch up in a dead tree in the middle of the field in front of me, which they reportedly regularly used for preening and as a perch to hunt from.

My second and last visit took place on 21st August. This time the birds were more visible, albeit at a distance, apparently foraging over the river a couple of hundred yards away. There were at least four birds and their plumage looked to be more or less identical, all appearing to be adults. After a while three of them perched in the dead tree referred to above, preening and making occasional hunting sorties. The light wasn't particularly good and what I was looking at were effectively silhouettes. Again I took some digi-scoped shots, but only two of these showed clearish images of the birds – although even this was quite an achievement, given the distance and the poorish light.

At the same time as this was happening, I was receiving regular RSPB bulletins of progress at the Durham breeding site. Whilst it would be wrong to judge events in Wharfedale on the basis of what was going on in Durham, it is my recollection that the Durham young fledged well after the dates on which I saw the Wharfedale birds.

Not being familiar with the species, I found it difficult to be certain as to what had transpired. However, given that all of the birds which I saw had tail-streamers (some longer than others); that up to four birds had been seen by the initial observer over a period of up to four weeks before I came on the scene and that none of the birds showed the food-begging activities and

calls typical, generally, of freshly-fledged young, I considered it unlikely that this represented a 2002 family party. I saw no behaviour suggesting that any of the birds had an interest in a possible nest site – abandoned or otherwise.

It is not beyond the bounds of possibility that there had been a breeding attempt. Judging by the length of the duration of their stay in that vicinity, the area was clearly to their liking and there was at least one apparently suitable breeding site on the opposite bank of the nearby River Wharfe. The suggestion that they might have attempted to breed and been washed out is not unreasonable, but we have neither evidence nor witnesses. That there might have been a possible breeding attempt is, perhaps, the most we can say. It's a shame that the floods intervened and raised this uncertainty. The Durham birds had clearly been better advised and had chosen a site not vulnerable to such potential disasters!

There was no report indicating that the birds had returned in 2003.

Doug Simpson
51 Heather Way
Killinghall Moor
Harrogate
North Yorkshire
HG3 2SH

25th February 2004

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